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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY MAY 24, 2017
www.saipantribune.com

www.facebook.com/saipantribune
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 102

UOG ROTC named among the best in the nation. PAGE 2
KCHC makes healthcare affordable with 'sliding fee' PAGE 6

75¢

CCC to look into IPI's readiness

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission would look into the readiness of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC before granting its request to begin operations of the integrated resort's casino.

See CCC on Page 4

Imperial Pacific Resort's grand lobby is ready to welcome its first patrons.
JON PEREZ

Gold Mantis asks for reconsideration

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gold Mantis Construction is asking the Commonwealth Casino Commission to reconsider its petition to revoke their provisional license after they failed to comply with some of CCC's regulations.

CCC filed a revocation and would impose financial sanctions on Gold Mantis after it was found out that the contractor violated several regulations including local and federal labor and immigration laws.

Both the local and U.S. Labor departments, Customs Border Protection, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are looking into Gold Mantis' alleged wrongdoing.

CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said that Gold Mantis, through its legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu, wants the CCC decision to be reviewed because they want to continue doing business with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

"Technically, [Gold Mantis] would have more activity rather than MCC. They are the ones doing the interior, so they are requesting the commission not to revoke their license and do a review only," said Deleon Guerrero.

"We gave them due process. They

See GOLD on Page 4

ICE immigration arrests climb nearly 40 pct.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In the 100 days since President Donald J. Trump signed executive orders regarding immigration enforcement priorities, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has arrested more than 41,000 individuals who are either known or suspected of being in the country illegally. This is an increase of 37.6 percent over the same period in 2016.

Between Jan. 22 and April 29, 2017, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations deportation officers administratively arrested 41,318 individuals on civil immigration charges. Between Jan. 24 and April 30, 2016, ERO arrested 30,028.

"These statistics reflect President Trump's commitment to enforce

See ICE on Page 4

SHEFA backs postponing poker move

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, which gets its scholarship money from poker license renewals, supports moving the relocation of poker businesses on Saipan to a later date.

SHEFA said that not doing so would devastate the thousands of

See SHEFA on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION

President Donald Trump proposes $4.1 trillion budget for the nation.

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WORLD

An explosion struck an Ariana Grande concert in England, killing at least 19 people.

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LIFE & STYLE

A highly anticipated night for Ariana Grande fans ended in blood and terror.

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Local

UOG ROTC named among the best in the nation

The University of Guam Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps program was recently awarded the prestigious MacArthur Award, recognizing it as one of the best in the country.

Presented by the U.S. Army Cadet Command and the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Foundation, the award recognizes the values of "duty, honor, and country" as advocated by MacArthur.

Out of the 275 Army ROTC units nationwide, only eight are presented with the award.

The U.S. Army Cadet Command select MacArthur award winners based on academic abilities, military prowess, leadership capabilities, and physical fitness of its students. It also takes into consideration a university's commissioning mission.

"This isn't an award you can prepare for," said Lt. Col. Jay A. Blakley, professor of Military Science. "It was kind of done in silence without us knowing that we were competing for it. Just the normal course of business and outcomes from the program drove the benchmarks for the award."

Each year, UOG Army ROTC is required to commission 12 lieutenants. Last year, the program commissioned 20 lieutenants, one of the largest classes in its history. Blakley said this spring they are on track to commission 16 lieutenants students.

"It reflects well on the school, the program, and the cadets that entered the program at the time, as well as the cadre that are running it," Blakely said. "There's no way our program would do this well without the university's support, especially when it comes to academics and some of those other performance measures that come into the equation that require university involvement."

University of Guam Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps Triton Warriors stand during the 2016 spring commencement ceremony, where UOG recognized 20 lieutenants commissioned by the program. UOG Army ROTC was recently awarded the prestigious MacArthur Award, recognizing it as one of the best Army ROTC programs in the country. This spring, UOG will also be commissioning 20 lieutenants.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Masters of Public Administration student Richard Pizzaro said the values upheld by the Triton Warrior Battalion and its leadership cadre help develop the students both in and outside of the classroom.

"Loyalty, duty, respect, service, honor, integrity, and personal courage—those are just some of the values that our program instills in us," he said. "These help us become leaders not just in the Army but in our communities."

For more information on the UOG Army ROTC program, visit www.uog.edu/army-rotc-home. ***(PR)***

SCC scholarship awarding in June

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

BEA CABRERA
"We aim to promote and enable students to pursue their education," said Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Ann Palacios.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce continues to grant scholarships to deserving students to help finance their education. Scholarship applications were all accepted and are currently undergoing screening. Awarding will be on June 7, 2017, at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

"We started with five students and had $10,000 to grant," said Chamber president Velma Ann Palacios. "We recently expanded the grant to $12,000 to include a vocational student. So we have scholarship grants for four high school students, one for college, and one for vocational."

The Chamber's selection is precise. The judges, all Chamber members, will select the scholars based on their academic merit and contribution to the community.

"The review of all applications is based on criteria, GPA, community service, and essays. Then we have a short list where a panel of judges who are Chamber members will interview the applicants," Palacios said.

"We also ask them to write an essay about what they would do for the community. I have judged several times and the hopes, dreams and things the students plans to do is eye-opening," she added.

Every year, the Chamber is able to raise funds for the scholarship program through events like golf tournaments, the Installation Dinner, and auctions, to name a few.

"The scholars go to high school and college of their choosing. As for our vocational scholar, we choose from the Northern Marianas Trade Institute because we want to promote trade, skills in construction, and culinary."

"In the coming years, we hope to raise more money to award more grants to more students because it always benefits the community," Palacios added.

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DMS valedictorian gets 3 more awards

ERWIN ENCINARES
The Class of 2017 performs a quick number for family members and the crowd.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dandan Middle School valedictorian Holly Sarah B. Liban was awarded three additional awards in the middle school's promotion ceremony yesterday at the DMS campus grounds.

Liban was also awarded the English language arts award, the mathematics award, and the science award for consecutively obtaining the highest scores from 6th to 8th grade.

Liban said she plans to either go to Saipan Southern High School or Marianas High School.

"I am happy because all the hard work I placed to getting this award paid off," she said.

In her speech, Liban cited the importance of attitude.

"In times of choosing where we go and what we want to be, let us not forget that with intelligence and good character, we will continue to succeed," Liban said.

Liban

DMS promoted 127 students to high school, with Toa I. Pangelinan serving as class salutatorian.

Along with Liban, other students received awards as well. Lillian Podziewski received the Social Studies award, Tioni Reyes received the Chamorro Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies award, Pangelinan received the Physical Education award, Joanna Caguioa and Jerwin Mendiola received the Leadership Corps award, and Yumin Ahn and Caguioa received the Advanced Art award.

Pangelinan

Bill to create temporary shelters OK'd

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation has passed a bill that allocates funds for a temporary typhoon shelter on Saipan.

Twenty delegation members voted to pass House Local Bill 20-3, D2 on Friday.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) introduced the bill. It appropriates $340,234.49 to build the temporary shelter. The money comes from Public Law 18-30, the Tourism Entertainment and Destination Enhancement Act of 2013.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), the delegation's Ways and Means Committee chairman, reduced to $2,500 the allocation for this year's Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

The fishing tournament already gets $5,000 a year. Demapan's amendment would give $7,500 to this year's edition of the tournament.

His other amendment appropriates $5,000 to the Telehealth Demonstration Project of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Sen. Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) commended the delegation for acting on the bill, and for Attao and others who supported having a typhoon shelter built on Saipan.

He said that HLB 20-3, D2 is timely after Typhoon Soudelor devastated Saipan in 2015. "We have to scramble help from the government and nongovernmental organizations and a lot of people were displaced."

"The issue [Soudelor] is still within us. I think the delegation and the whole Legislature should consider this type of program, perhaps in collaboration with the Northern Marians Housing Corp. and the Department of Homeland Security," said Palacios.

"We can't always use public school facilities, since we all know classes have to occur. A lot of this folks had to move out of temporary shelters once the school year started. This facility is ideally what we need to invest on."

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CCC

From Page 1

The CCC board met yesterday with IPI representatives at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's videoconference room to talk whether to allow the Hong Kong-based company to open Imperial Pacific Resort's gaming facility.

In a statement, IPI said the safety of their guests and employees has always been their highest priority.

"We fully complied with all the requirements of the Department of Public Works and [Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services] and have therefore been granted conditional occupancy permits by both departments."

"The requirements of the Commonwealth Casino Commission are much higher, so our company will continue to work closely with CCC. Hopefully we receive the approval from CCC soon so we can open the casino and further contribute to the CNMI economy," the statement said

IPI is the lone casino licensee on Saipan and it requested CCC to allow them to open the casino on Friday, May 26.

The CCC board deferred in making a decision on IPI's request due to safety concerns and parking space, which are some of the issues raised at the meeting.

"Our concerns right now—on issues on safety, barriers, or the drainage situation outside the perimeter—is to look at the totality of the scenario before we could approve for them to go live with their operations," said CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero.

"So that even if casino gaming is operational inside, we want to make sure the workers, patrons, guests or anyone that enters or exits the facility are safe. So today, the commission decided that there is not enough evidence and information to grant the approval to let them open on Friday."

The casino floor of the Imperial Pacific Resort.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Deleon Guerrero said IPI is all set to begin operations of its casino floor with all gaming tables and other equipment already in place. "The specific area from the casino is relatively ready to go live. But because this would be an issue where there would be a large concentration of people in one location, we're very concerned with safety—whether safety in reference to traffic movement, parking lots, access [under the] Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, fire safety, building safety, and even the debris issues on the unfinished construction of the hotel."

He said all permitting agencies met at the Governor's Office on Monday so they could go through all the requirements needed by IPI. The Office of the Governor called for the meeting and stressed safety compliance.

"The Torres administration emphasizes that the safety of the public and compliance with all requirements is an ongoing priority. The [CCC] is performing its due diligence in all matters related to the oversight of the casino facility," said the CCC in a statement yesterday.

Deleon Guerrero said the commission would again discuss IPI's request to open the casino in another meeting on May 31, Tuesday, also at the JKPL videoconference room. "The information that we got from other agencies is that they did not disapprove [IPI's request] it but they just deferred the decision until Tuesday."

"We are hoping that between now and next week, all of the issues of our sister permitting agencies would provide CCC with information and feedback—an updated issue regarding compliance in this particular project since this not only involves gaming but also the interior and exterior portions of the facility," he added.

He asked all permitting agencies to work closely with the commission so IPI could address all of their issues and concerns before giving the go-signal to open the casino.

"This is a mega project. A superstructure. We want to make sure that the…[CNMI] enjoys the new [gaming] industry. Safety is the top issue not only for the people who work in the industry but also for those who would visit. There will be no mini-opening on Friday."

IPI assures safety

From what Deleon Guerrero learned, all construction activities would be moved to the backside. "From my understanding, there would be no crane movement. All construction activities will be happening at the back and won't be near the casino area where it would affect the movement of the people."

"The front yard, where they are doing the water fountains, had also been barricaded. Construction is still ongoing but mostly on the inside part. The hotel side appears with little activity."

IPI has also secured the facility with numerous fire extinguishers, a regulation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration before an occupancy permit is issued. IPI is also securing all necessary sanitary permits so it could offer food and drinks.

The commission is also securing its office inside the casino since they would monitor IPI's gaming operations 24 hours.

"We're tweaking all cameras and making final adjustments. We will have staff there. We have eyes and ears throughout the facility, and [installed a] significant number of cameras."

IPI first eyed to open the casino on Jan. 28, the Chinese Lunar New Year. That got pushed back to allow the casino floor to be finished. DPW issued a conditional occupancy permit last week.

SHEFA

From Page 1

students that rely on it to fund their college education.

Under the law, poker parlors only have until the end of this year to relocate to Garapan.

House Bill 20-12, introduced by Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), seeks to extend this deadline by two more years, or until 2019.

Saipan Local Law 18-05 gave poker arcades four years to relocate to an Adult Business Park in Garapan. Since SLL 18-05 was enacted in 2013, that means poker parlors only have until the end of 2017 to relocate to an Adult Business Park that has yet to be identified at this point.

HB 20-12 was proposed last Friday during a session of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. According to SHEFA, it receives a significant amount of fees from revenue generated from these gaming arcades.

According to comments by SHEFA chair Oscar Babauta, the program's only source of funding comes from the renewal of the licenses of these gaming arcades. If HB 20-12 were not passed, it would alter the SHEFA program as it would lose its only means of funding.

"To allow the deadline to take effect would be devastating to SHEFA and most especially to the thousands of students that rely on the financial assistance they receive each semester from SHEFA to complete their studies," Babauta wrote in his comments.

SHEFA currently gets $3 million a year from the funds collected from these game rooms. The $3 million is appropriated to qualified students.

According to Babauta, an average of over a thousand students obtain financial assistance from SHEFA in the last five years (2012-2017).

One of the biggest concerns SHEFA faces is that if their only source of funding is cut, students who receive assistance from their program may be forced to drop out and will delay the process of getting their degrees or certificates.

According to Babauta, moving poker rooms to permitted zones is a good idea. However, he just asks that the relocation period be extended as game rooms have only a few more months left to relocate.

Without a substitute funding source, the number of conforming poker game rooms won't be able to subsidize the thousands of students who depend on the funds SHEFA provides for them, Babauta said.

"There is just no way that only 10 conforming game rooms can meet the education financial assistance needed for our over 1,000 students who rely and depend on the supplemental assistance they receive from SHEFA," wrote Babauta.

The discussion of the bill was delayed, but according to Sablan, it will continue at the next delegation session.

GOLD

From Page 1

are responding and we also imposed a monetary sanction. They are requesting for some consideration and they are in negotiation with our legal counsel. We imposed $25,000 per violation and they had four."

He added the likes of Gold Mantis and MCC International were licensed as non-gaming vendors. If Gold Mantis' license is revoked, IPI is not compelled to pay any amount. "But since their primary completion is the finishing touches of the hotel, which has yet to begin, they are asking for reconsideration to retain the license."

Deleon Guerrero said they also conducted their own investigation while waiting for the results of those being conducted by local and federal agencies. "We're not labor or immigration, but now that we have this problem, we take a special interest now"… "to make sure that if we issue a license to you… we're going to make sure you're in compliance."

ICE

From Page 1

our immigration laws fairly and across the board. ICE agents and officers have been given clear direction to focus on threats to public safety and national security, which has resulted in a substantial increase in the arrest of convicted criminal aliens. However, when we encounter others who are in the country unlawfully, we will execute our sworn duty and enforce the law. As the data demonstrates, ICE continues to execute our mission professionally and in accordance with the law, and our communities will be much safer for it," said ICE acting director Thomas Homan.

Nearly 75 percent of those arrested during this period in 2017 are convicted criminals, with offenses ranging from homicide and assault to sexual abuse and drug-related charges.

The arrest of aliens at-large in the community increased by more than 50 percent, from 8,381 last year to 12,766 arrests this year during the same period.

The arrest of convicted criminal aliens climbed nearly 20 percent, from 25,786 last year to 30,473 this year.

Violent crimes such as homicide, rape, kidnapping and assault accounted for more than 2,700 convictions.

In total, since the President signed the EOs, ICE's immigration enforcement activity has resulted in more than 400 arrests per day, including the capture of egregious and violent offenders, such as:

■ The Feb. 16 arrest in New York City of an MS-13 gang member, Estivan Rafael Marques Velasquez, a Salvadoran national with a criminal history in the U.S., which includes reckless endangerment in the second degree, criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree, and disorderly conduct.

■ The March 9 arrest in DeKalb, Georgia, of Jose Mercedes Meza-Ignacio, 52, a citizen of Mexico residing in Atlanta, wanted on criminal charges for child molestation.

■ The April 10 arrest in Dallas, Texas, of Juan Antonio Melchor Molina by the agency's Dallas Fugitive Operations Team. Molina is the subject of a 2011 murder warrant issued by the Prosecutor General's Office in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Mexican authorities allege that Molina shot and killed Jorge Alejandro De La Rosa at a wedding in 2008.

■ The April 13 arrest in Denver, Colorado, of Jose Victor Bonilla-Melendez, one of ICE's "Most Wanted Fugitives," in Denver, Colorado, following a public tip. Bonilla-Melendez is also known as Anthony Garcia-Melendez, a citizen of Honduras whose criminal history includes felony convictions for assault causing serious bodily injury, sexual assault and unlawful re-entry after deportation.

■ The April 26 arrest in Houston, Texas, of William Magana-Contreras, a Salvadoran MS-13 gang member wanted for aggravated homicide in his home country.

While these data clearly reflect the fact that convicted criminals are an immigration enforcement priority, Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly has made it clear that ICE will no longer exempt any class of individuals from removal proceedings if they are found to be in the country illegally. This is evident by the rise in non-criminal arrests over the same period, which increased from approximately 4,200 in 2016 to more than 10,800 in 2017.

"All of those arrested will receive the due process afforded to them under the law. ICE will take action to remove individuals subject to a final order by a federal immigration judge. We are a nation of laws, and ignoring orders issued by federal judges undermines our constitutional government," said Homan.

This announcement follows a significant gang announcement made by ICE's Homeland Security Investigations last week in which 1,095 confirmed gang members and associates were arrested.

Song leads ACS graduation

Agape Christian School's K5, middle school, and high school's Class of 2017. ERWIN ENCINARES

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Agape Christian School's senior graduation for the Class of 2017 on Monday recognized Claire Song as class valedictorian, along with Andrea Feng as class salutatorian.

Song, who would be going on to the University of Illinois to pursue a bachelor's degree in mathematics, has been representing the CNMI in the high school category of the Mathleague competition for many years. Her interest in math motivated her to attend UI Urbana-Champaign's math program.

Song

Feng

Guintu

Xu

Song was also accepted to the Pennsylvania State University, Ohio State University, University of California Davis, and the University of Miami.

"I chose UI because it is one of the universities that isn't too liberal; I don't like to party. It is also traditional and the mathematics program there is very good. I also like to study there because I like snow," said Song when asked why she chose UI over the other universities.

Song plans to finish her mathematics degree before pursuing a degree in business, particularly in finance, or other business related degrees.

Feng is headed for Pensacola Christian College in Florida, where she plans to pursue a nursing degree.

ACS' senior Class of 2017 consists of 19 graduates. Fourteen of he 19 graduates are all headed for Pensacola.

ACS's middle school valedictorian for class 2017 is Frederic Guintu, while Tychicus Xu is the salutatorian.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-030

MAUI SHAFT WELLS REHABILITATION PROJECT, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop the method and perform the construction work to remove the cave in soil material in the Maui 4 Shaft Well tunnel and rehabilitate the existing buildings, platforms, shaft, electrical components, mechanical lift system and all other items listed in the scope of work for the Maui 1 and 4 shaft wells. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is **375 calendar days** from date of award.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **May 25, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-030 –Maui Shaft Wells Rehabilitation Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than June 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 30, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth P.E. CUC Water-Wastewater Senior Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-032

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota for the period starting September 01, 2017 through August 30, 2020.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **June 1, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-032, Supply & Delivery Of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation"* to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building**, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contract may be subject to the approval CPUC and will not be effective until receipt of such approval.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 5, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Antonio Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email antonio.castro@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

KCHC makes healthcare affordable with 'sliding fee'

As part of its mission, the Kagman Community Health Center works to address one of the major barriers to accessing health care: affordability. The KCHC helps patients afford care through its sliding fee discount program, often referred to simply as "sliding fee." The purpose of the program is to make sure that fear of cost does not deter community members from accessing primary care services.

Those who are eligible for the program are responsible for a significantly reduced fee for the services and care received at the KCHC. Eligibility for sliding fee discounts is based on income and family size compared to the federal poverty level. The lower the income of an individual or family, the higher the discounts for care. Some enrollees may be responsible for only a nominal fee of $5, while others may receive discounts from 25 to 75 percent. The amount of the discount is determined according to income. Eligibility for the discounts is not limited to Kagman residents.

The sliding fee discount program supports the concept that patients be monetarily invested in their care based on their ability to pay. The program is targeted to minimize financial barriers to care for patients at or below 200 percent of the current federal poverty guidelines.

Anyone living in the CNMI is welcome to apply. Visit the KCHC on Lemmai Way in Kagman II (256-5242), to complete the confidential sliding fee application and submit required documents. Eligibility for the program is determined 15 business days from the date all required supporting documents are received, and the applicant will receive an eligibility notification letter in the mail. If determined eligible, enrollment is effective for one year. Any changes in income or household size must be reported to KCHC for a redetermination of eligibility.

The screening schedule is below:

Wednesday, May 24	Twins Market, Dandan	4pm to 6pm
Saturday, May 27	Joeten Superstore, Oleai	10:30am to 12:30pm
Wednesday, May 31	Han Nam Market, Koblerville	4pm to 6pm
Wednesday, June 7	Welcome Market, San Roque	4pm to 6pm
Saturday, June 10	Joeten Superstore, Oleai	10:30am to 12:30pm
Wednesday, June 14	Kagman Market, Kagman	4pm to 6pm
Saturday, June 17	Joeten Superstore, Oleai	10:30am to 12:30am
Wednesday, June 21	Twins Market, Dandan	4pm to 6pm
Saturday, June 24	Joeten Superstore, Oleai	10:30am to 12:30pm

Applications for the program can also be picked up from the free blood pressure screenings at Saipan grocery stores through the month of June. The effort is a collaboration of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Northern Marianas College with funding from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. Screening participants with high blood pressure will be offered follow-up at KCHC. ***(PR)***

Hard Rock hosts World Burger Tour

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

Hard Rock Café branches, which are hosting the World Burger Tour all over the world, has landed here on Saipan.

For those not in the know, the idea behind the World Burger Tour actually arose from the Hard Rock Cafe branches in Guam and on Saipan.

"In 2008, we created the Chamorro Burger to cater to the many tourists, for them to catch the local taste. We used…Tinian chili pepper and other ingredients that are available on the island. It was a big hit for both locals and tourists, that's why the Chamorro Burger is a regular on our menu here and in Guam," said Hard Rock Café executive chef Kotwal Meharwan Singh.

BEA CABRERA

10 ounces of Angus beef goodness

The corporate office of Hard Rock Café later decided to follow suit and implemented the idea of concocting local burgers in all branches. The idea inspired the chefs to create their burger based on their location, ingredients, spices, and customers. That gave birth to the World Burger Tour.

"Now, even if you are in just one place, you will be able to taste different countries by just having our burgers," Singh added.

On Saipan, four burgers are available for sampling. The Korea Kimchi Burger was inspired by Seoul. It is a burger patty topped with kimchi, bulgogi sauce, fresh tomato, and spicy mayo. The English Breakfast Burger was inspired by England. It is topped with breakfast sausage, sliced ham, arugula, Portobello mushroom, fresh tomato, and fresh-cracked egg. The Tennessee BBQ Burger was inspired by Memphis. It is a certified Angus beef patty seasoned with Memphis dry rub and topped with pickle slices, Memphis slaw, pulled pork, tangy barbecue sauce, crispy onions, and cheddar cheese. The Jamaica Jerk Burger, inspired by Montago Bay, is a smooth and spicy fusion of mango cream cheese and jerk mayo, banana peppers, and arugula.

BEA CABRERA

Hard Rock Café executive chef Kotwal Meharwan Singh and his crew with the World Burger Tour selection.

Get these burgers within 15 minutes from ordering and the meat is best paired with fries and sauce.

"We chose burgers instead of other dishes that you will find in other countries because Hard Rock Café is known for our burgers. We go for quality instead of quantity. We wanted to create something more with what we are popularly known for," Singh said.

Celebrate the taste of the world by experiencing the World Burger Tour at Hard Rock Café, which is happening until June 25, 2017.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-125

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, & INTERNET READINESS PROJECTS A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-126

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PREPARATION OF A NEW CNMI STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN: FY2017 – FY2022, A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-127

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"UPDATE & MAINTAIN CNMI HPO WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-128

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY ASESSMENT PHASE 2 A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-137

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"CNMI HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY SYSTEM, PHASE II A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-138

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"INTERPRETIVE SIGNS FOR SELECTED SIGNIFICANT SITES IN THE CNMI A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

COTA awarded over $961K in FTA grant funds

The CNMI had been awarded over $961,000 in Federal Transit Administration funds, so that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, or COTA, can launch its Fixed-Flex Route and Para-Transit services.

The money would allow COTA to buy buses for the CNMI's first public transportation system and operate and administer the system.

Alfreda Camacho, the special assistant for Public Transportation, was notified Friday about the new grant by Bernardo Bustamente, director of the Office of Program Management and Program Oversight for FTA Region IX.

Camacho

According to Camacho, the grant will allow for COTA to properly plan and provide safe, efficient, effective, flexible, and responsive transit services for the entire community, including the elderly and those with disabilities.

Upon the notification, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was assured that COTA has executed the award on the FTA database, completing the grant transfer to the CNMI government.

"I am very pleased to see the continuity of the development of public transit services. I commend [Camacho] for ensuring that the funding for this project would go toward the sustainability of the current demand and operations," Torres said.

Camacho said the grant award covers the acquisition of another medium low-floor ADA accessible bus to add to the Fixed Route System, as well as surveillance systems for COTA's fleet, a phone recording system for COTA's One-Call/One-Click Center, and an overall computer system upgrade for the transportation tracking software for the required National Transit Database reports to FTA.

"The bid process for these systems will begin immediately and on behalf of the COTA team, we thank Governor Torres for his unending support and continuous assistance for this public transportation program," Camacho said.

For more information on COTA, log onto their new website at http://cnmicota.wixsite.com/cota-mp. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E recently donated $5,000 in cash and in-kind prizes to the organizers of the Governor's Tournament of Champions, which will be held this weekend. From left, Marie Sablan, TOC committee member; Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director; Daisy Demapan, IT&E marketing staff; and Surina Reyes, TOC committee member.

IT&E donates $5K to TOC

Organizers of the highly anticipated 22nd Governor's Tournament of Champions Golf Tournament recently received $5,000 in cash and in-kind contributions from IT&E as part of the company's efforts to support community activities that help promote the CNMI as a prime tourist destination.

"Over the past 20 years, the Governor's Tournament of Champions has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars that have paid for important destination-enhancement projects," said Hans Mickelson, IT&E Enterprise sales manager. "We are always delighted to be a part of this effort and look forward to another exciting weekend of golf."

"IT&E's donation of cash and exciting prize giveaways helps us build even more momentum for this year's tournament," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "We are extremely appreciative of the company's unwavering support of the tournament."

The 22nd Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east and west courses on May 27 and 28. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

Winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior flights will each receive $500, $400, $300, a digital camera, and $100 DFS gift certificate for the first to fifth place, respectively. The Ladies Low Gross winners will receive $500, $400, and $300 for first to third place, respectively. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will each receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include a brand new 2017 Honda Civic hatchback donated by Joeten Motors, a brand new 2017 Hyundai Grand Santa Fe donated by Triple J Motors, a brand new 2017 Limited Edition 50th Anniversary Toyota Corolla donated by Atkins Kroll Toyota, a $10,000 hole-in-one prize offered by Pacifica Insurance, a $5,000 hole-in-one cash prize offered by McDonald's Saipan, and one year of free golf donated by Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Since its inception, TOC has turned over more than $800,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to Kensington, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, the Governor's TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Road pathway, and the beautification of the Port-to-Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2017 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-TDLNR-141-CIF TINIAN

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 5, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A UTILITY TRACTOR WITH 3 ATTACHMENTS FOR TINIAN DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN**, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS, MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN
/S/ GUILLERMO C. BORJA, RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD, TDLNR
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI Government
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-17
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 24, 2017 TIME: 4:00 P.M.
"PROCUREMENT, DELIVERY, AND INSTALLATION OF SIX (6) ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL AIR CONDITIONING CONDENSING UNITS AT THE BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 26, 2017.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND FOUR (4) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: "**RFP FOR THE PROCUREMENT, DELIVERY, AND INSTALLATION OF 6 COMMERCIAL AIR CONDITIONERS AT THE BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA (RFP-009-17)**". BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS PRICE PROPOSAL.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

DOCOMO PACIFIC proposes to build two structures: a 200-foot self-support tower located 2.3 miles south of Guata Beach Park, Rota or at coordinates 14-8-28.7 N, 145-12-7.3 E. The FCC ASR, Form 854 file number is A1071826. The second structure is a 100-foot monopole located at Rota Airport or at coordinates 14-10-18.5 N, 145-14-37.3 E. The FCC ASR, Form 854 file number is A1071858. Interested persons may review the applications (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the file number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest). The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-YAO-142

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A 4X4 (4 FULL DOORS) PICK UP TRUCK FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, YOUTH AFFAIRS OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS; OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

S/ SHELANE BORJA, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ/DCRM-143

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"CNMI BETTER BUILDING PRACTICES – TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT & IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MAY 17, 2017** FROM BECQ/DCRM OFFICE OR BY EMAIL REQUEST TO EMILY NORTHROP **emilynorthrop@becq.gov.mp** QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE EMAILED TO emilynorthrop@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **JUNE 06, 2017**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN, ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

MVA

Participants of the familiarization tour organized by Asiana Airlines and the Marianas Visitors Authority touch a stingray at SEATOUCH marine encounter tour on Saipan on May 13, 2017.

MVA

Participants of the familiarization tour organized by Asiana Airlines and the Marianas Visitors Authority visit SandCastle Saipan's Las Vegas-style cocktail show on May 13, 2017.

MVA

Participants of the familiarization tour organized by Asiana Airlines and the Marianas Visitors Authority visit the iconic Bird Island Lookout on May 14, 2017.

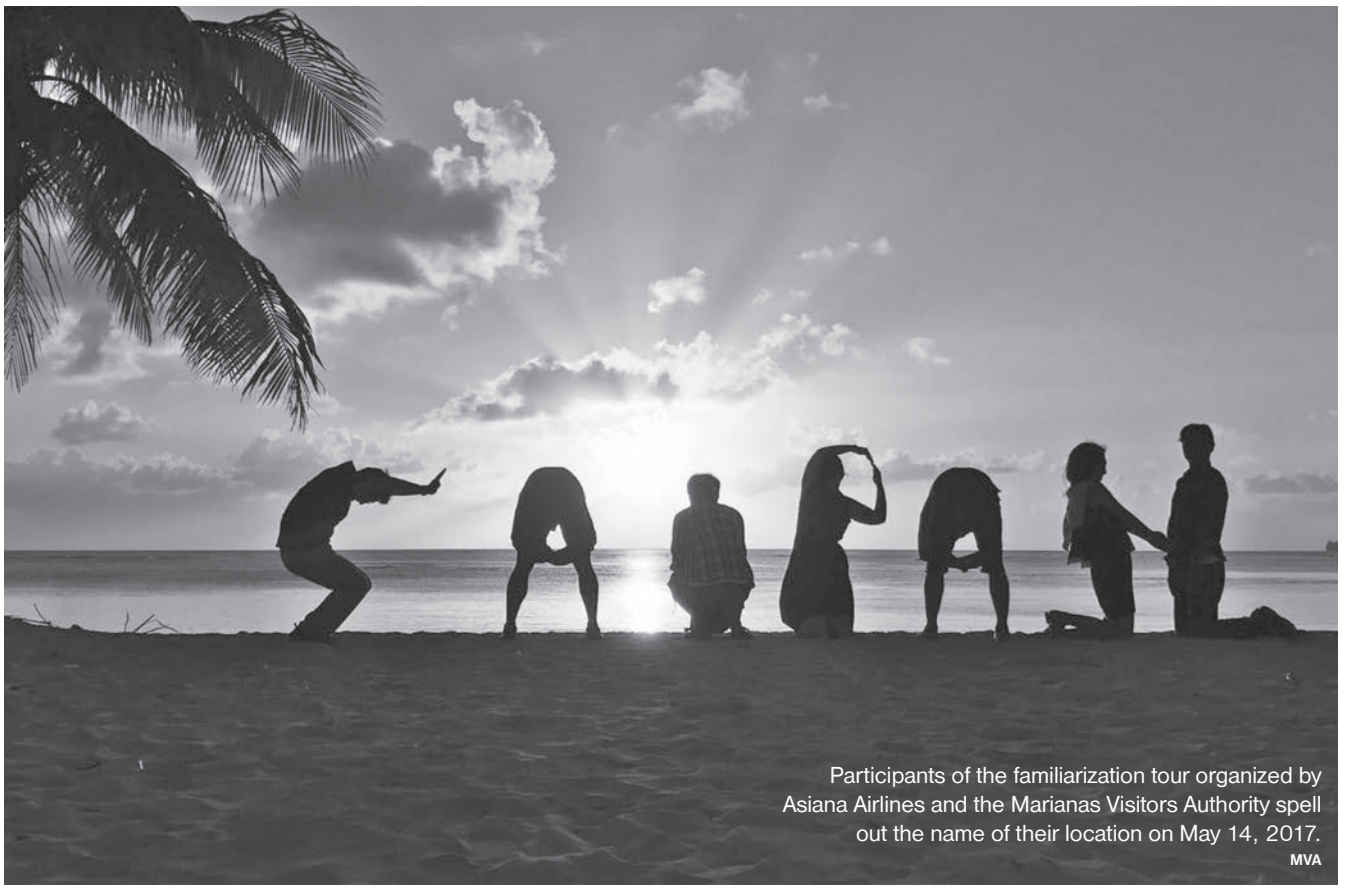
Asiana, MVA host Sendai travel agent tour

Eyeing potential visitors from an outlying city in Japan, Asiana Airlines and the Marianas Visitors Authority gave travel agents and other travel reps from Sendai a whirlwind familiarization tour of Saipan on May 13-14, 2017.

Travelers from Sendai can conveniently transit to the Marianas via Seoul.

"To make the most of the opportunity we have with Asiana's convenient connection from Sendai via Seoul, we are giving key travel agents from the area an opportunity see the Marianas for themselves so they know what we have to offer," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Tapping this northeast coast city is one of many steps toward the recovery of the Japan market, and we are making the most of it."

A major part of the tour was site inspections of hotels, including Kensington, Aqua Resort Club, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Grandvrio Resort, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Hyatt Regency Saipan, where the group lodged.



Participants of the familiarization tour organized by Asiana Airlines and the Marianas Visitors Authority spell out the name of their location on May 14, 2017.

MVA

The group also visited SEATOUCH, Mariana Lounge, SandCastle Saipan Cocktail Show, Managaha, a tour of historic and scenic sites in Marpi, a buggy ride with Marianas Trekking, Surf Club, T Galleria, and I Love Saipan. The group also stopped by the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden, where they sampled the home-cooked entries of the "Kadun Pika" (spicy chicken) Cookoff.

The group of 10 also included a representative of Asiana Airlines. Armed with their new knowledge about the charms of Saipan, the tour members are now better equipped to sell the destination to potential visitors. ***(MVA)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Memories program on Friday

The Man'Amko Memorial Day Memories program will take place on Friday May 26, from 5:30pm to 8pm, at the American Memorial Park theater and amphitheater. Videos recorded by students of stories shared with them by their elders will be shown. There will also be performances by elders and students. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor visits Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic today, May 24, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Abstract submission deadline extended

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council has extended the submission deadline for paper abstracts for the 3rd Marianas History Conference. The new submission deadline is Friday, June 2, 2017.

The conference will be held on Sept. 1-2, 2017, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. It will cover a full range of topics associated with the archipelago's history.

Papers may be submitted under the following general categories: Ancient Chamorro History; Early Colonial (17th – 18th centuries); Late Colonial (19th – early 20th centuries); World War II; Recent (post-war); and Oral History and Genealogical Research. The organizers also encourage student presentations.

Paper abstracts with a maximum of 150 words and the presenter's bio may be submitted via a link on the council webpage at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

The conference is open to the public and free of charge. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis.

Contact council staff at 235-4785 for more details. ***(PR)***

Grief support group to meet on June 1

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding its monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, June 1, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families in the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit its website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

Learn how to manage tasks and time

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce presents "Task & Time Management," the second in its "customer service excellence" series of workshops for 2017 in partnership with Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions. This seminar will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) on June 15, 2017, from 9am to 12pm. Registration fee is $50 per person for Chamber members and $55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited. To register, call 234-7150 or email us at coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Learn basic Chamorro

Are you interested in learning the basics of Chamorro? Or do you speak Chamorro or understand Chamorro, and just want to practice your Chamorro language skills? The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program offers a free Beginner's Chamorro Literacy Class at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library this summer! Read and borrow books translated into Chamorro from the Motheread/Fatheread curriculum. Classes are held every Thursday from May to July. Class schedule: May 18, 25, and June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, from 5pm to 6pm. Completion class on July 1(1pm to 2pm). Call 235-7319/783-7678 or email at cnmimotheread@gmail.com and sign up today. ***(PR)***

Register for Chamber's Corporate Challenge

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is still accepting team registrations for the *17th annual Corporate Challenge* on Sunday, May 28, 2017. The event will be held at Minatchom Atdao. Registrations are due this Friday, May 19, 2017 at 5pm. Submit completed team player listing. Competing this year are Imperial Pacific, Fiesta Resort &Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Delta Management, The Shack, Pacific Trading Co., Marianas Pacific Distributors, IT&E, and Kanoa Resort. To register now, or for more information, call 234-7150 or e-mail administrator@saipanchamber.com for more information or visit www.saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Hyatt's 3R features Angus beef, fine wine, great people

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

With May comes one of the most anticipated events of the year, the annual Roast, Red, and Rendezvous of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Called this year the Island Sundowner, this latest edition of this event, held Friday in partnership with Triple J Wholesale Foods and Pacific Trading Co., did not disappoint.

The inspiration for Island Sundowner is the integration of experiences of guests around the world, according to Maria Valentina Haberman, marketing manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"We believe that fine wine, great food, island ambience, and great music brings people together. The Island Sundowner is an easygoing event where guests get acquainted with other guests and share a conversation, making an instant connection," she said.

"The concept…is to combine certified Angus beef with wine and a beautiful location: sunset by the beach. Every year, we get different cuts, put in nice flavor of barbecue and a selection of sauces," said Hyatt executive chef Gabriel Colombo.

Jay Santos of Triple J always looks forward to this event. This year features special cuts of Angus beef: tri-tip cut, flat iron, and flat meat.

"The fun part about my job is trying to come up with unique cuts for Chef Colombo and his team. They are like artists, they like to create new stuff whether sauces or pastas."

The wine selection is picked based on the weather, food, and the people who are seeking fun and relaxation. For this year, Island Sundowner featured Fremont caberbet sauvignon, La Creama Russian River Valley pinot noir, Byron chardonnay, and Byron pinot noir.

"This is our third year to celebrate Island Sundowner and each year we prepare different wines. People go to events like these because they want to have fun, eat good food with really good wine and we came up with the best bottles," said Tom Kriegshauser, general manager of Jackson Family Wines.

This is the ninth year that the three partners have collaborated to bring about the annual Roast, Red, Rendezvous event.

Hyatt Regency Saipan is celebrating the monthlong event in different restaurants at the hotel: Giovanni's, Miyako, and Teppanyaki, featuring different cuts of Angus beef paired with different wines.

"We feature different themes and culture every month. For the Island Sundowner, the month of May is the popular time and perfect time as far as the weather and fun atmosphere and so it fit this month," Haberman added.

Roast, Red and Rendezvous will run up to the end of the month. For reservations, call 234-1234 or go to saipan.regency.hyatt.com.

BEA CABRERA

Gabriel Colombo, executive chef of Hyatt Regency Saipan, said, "The Island Sundowner is a favorite event of everyone. People always look forward to this."

BEA CABRERA

Valentina Haberman, marketing manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan, welcomes and thanks everyone for the support of Island Sundowner.

BEA CABRERA

Jay Santos of Triple J, second from left, is joined by his wife and friends. "I am thankful to the community for their support and great camaraderie," said Santos.

BEA CABRERA

Island music completed the ambiance.

BEA CABRERA

Guests enjoy the food selection at the Island Sundowner.

BEA CABRERA

Women who wine and dine. Seated, Kim Low, Jeanette Tambakan, and Doris Koo. Standing, Lydia Tan, Kanani Lee, Winnie Lee, and Sally Lee.

Commerce: One-stop center a boon to businesses

BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

The Department of Commerce's One-Stop Processing Center is proving to be a boon to businesses because of the ease of securing government permits now compared to how it was before, according to Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman.

"The One-Stop Processing Center was initiated by then secretary and now senator Sixto Igisomar. He put me and Workers Compensation Commission director Frank Cabrera [in charge] of developing it. There was a need to streamline and centralize business registration processing for the convenience of the public, specifically the business owners," he said.

Rabauliman

The center is located in one room at the Department of Commerce. Gone are the days when the different offices were located in different places. It is now consolidated. There are windows that cater to a specific business: Alcohol, beverage and tobacco control, banking, insurance, workers' compensation, weights and measures, and taxicab bureau.

"The information from every department is there at the center. People who would like to open a business can talk to any person in the front line and get information that is current. Everyone at the center knows everything about every division, like which forms to fill up, what other requirements are needed, etc. Our employees empower each other by learning the tasks of each and everyone. So in the event that someone is sick or on vacation, someone in the office can take over. There are no excuses why one process is on hold because the person handling it is not around," Rabaulimam said.

There has also been a significant decrease in turnaround time since the inception of the center. Currently, business registration takes three days. That used to take five or more days to finish. The center's goal is to trim that to within a day.

The placement of the directors next door also makes business registration faster. Inquiries, certifications, and clearances may be asked directly from directors of every division. The center provides necessary service and accessibility.

"It' a revolving cycle. If the service is good, our business owners' services are good. Both benefit. We are guided by our laws. For our part, it allows us to be flexible," Rabauliman said.

He said that going high-tech will increase the level of service they want to provide to the public. Online registration is one of the department's projects and goals for 2017.

"We are in the digital age. We are aware that a lot of things can be done with just a push of a button. We are currently working with potential contractors," he said.

In a speech that Rabauliman gave at the Public Service Recognition Week early this month, he said that the One-Stop Processing Center is the heart of the department.

"The One-Stop Processing Center is one our of contributions in bringing solutions. This is also in line with the administration's program of being business-friendly, streamlining, transparency and accountability."

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 102

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Class of 2017, explore the world

Commencement season is coming to an end at colleges and universities. High schools will soon follow. For the class of 2017, these are challenging times.

Earlier generations faced the possibilities of the military draft and the impending fear of a nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union. While global tensions are on the rise, most young citizens are not worried about being sent into combat. Civil defense drills —a ubiquitous part of 1960s America —are a thing of the past.

Employment possibilities are greater now than they were during the throes of the Great Recession.

So things are good? Yes. But things should be better. And they get that way only when a new generation picks up the torch from the previous one. If that previous one hasn't carried it that far or high, then it is so much harder for the next generation to respond to the call of civic duty.

Graduates often see the immediate future —getting jobs, moving out on their own, maybe starting families. This is all part of growing into adulthood. But class of 2017, you need to see the importance of growing into citizenship — now more than ever. Now, when older Americans are consumed with labels of left, right, conservative and liberal. When news is "fake" and "spin" is real. When too many complain about their government —local, state and federal —and do not bother to vote. To engage. To debate. To challenge what does not seem right, to celebrate what truly is and to strive to make life better for all people.

In our jingoistic age, "America First" sounds like a cry toward excellence. Taken out of context, it could be. But context matters. That's part being an adult. America First should be a proclamation that the values that underpin being American are first. Democracy. Liberty. Equality.

Isolationism is not on the list. Neither is xenophobia. Citizens have to engage in the world around them. Democracy is too fragile to leave its protection to others. That does not mean that each and every graduate must find a soap box, a protest or a cause. They must find a polling place. And they must vote as informed citizens.

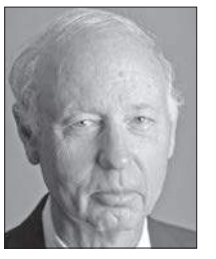
Too many of the commencement pictures that travel the internet and across social media platforms show young men and women looking down at smart phones or taking selfies. There is a time to take pictures, but there also is a time to be present in the moment. Your moment. Life is not a spectator sport, and young generations who have grown up with the distraction of high-speed connections and Wi-Fi have not been forced to interact as much as previous generations.

So we tell the class of 2017, put down the phone and stop

See CLASS on Next Page

Chatter about impeachment is premature

By JULES WITCOVER
Tribune News Service



Jules Witcover's latest book is The American Vice Presidency: From Irrelevance to Power, *published by Smithsonian Books. You can respond to this column at juleswitcover@comcast.net.*

WASHINGTON—Donald Trump's early stumbling out of the presidential gate in the judicial, legislative and diplomatic realms has already surfaced talk by wishful thinkers of invoking the constitutional route of impeachment to remove him from the Oval Office for committing "high crimes and misdemeanors."

Liberal Harvard Law Professor Laurence Tribe has fed the notion in a Washington Post opinion piece. He cites the same charges of "obstruction of justice" that were part of the undoing of President Richard Nixon in the Watergate scandal of 1972-73, comparing them to Trump's situation in his swift and impulsive firing of FBI Director James Comey.

The charges against Nixon were brought by the House of Representatives after long congressional committee hearings, and the Senate was poised to vote to convict when senior Republican leaders, including Sen. Barry Goldwater and Rep. John Rhodes, both of Arizona, personally told him the jig was up, and he resigned.

Nixon's public disgrace was rendered no less painful by resigning. He retreated into a California sanctuary before finally emerging in a years-long attempt to salvage his reputation, at least in the foreign policy arena. He became a prolific author, but he never was readmitted to the heart of his Republican Party and never invited to a subsequent national political convention.

Only two other presidents, Andrew Johnson in 1867 and Bill Clinton in 1998, were impeached by the House, and each was acquitted in a Senate trial. Johnson was charged with violating the Tenure of Office Act in firing Lincoln's Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. Johnson was saved by a single vote in the Senate.

Clinton escaped the guilty charge when the Senate Democratic majority held its collective nose against his unsavory sexual exploits and kept the vote short of the required two-thirds to convict him. He remained in office through his second term.

Now Tribe cites the Comey firing as "an obvious effort to interfere with a probe involving national security matters vastly more serious than the 'third-rate burglary' that Nixon tried to cover up in Watergate. The question of Russian interference in the presidential election and possible collusion with the Trump campaign goes to the heart of our system and ability to conduct free and fair elections."

Tribe also mocks Trump's "phony justifications" for the firing, such as the pretext that Comey had botched the handling of Hillary Clinton's incriminating emails during the 2016 campaign, and the way Trump used the supposedly recused Attorney General Jeff Sessions, his acting fill-in Rod Rosenstein and Vice President Mike Pence to help sell his case.

Regarding Clinton's impeachment, Tribe argues that "the ostensible obstruction consisted solely in lying under oath about a sordid sexual affair that may have sullied the Oval Office but involved no abuse of presidential power as such."

The Nixon case, however, "reads like a forecast of what Trump would do decades later," Tribe writes, "making misleading statements to, or withholding material evidence from, federal investigators or other federal employees; trying to interfere with FBI or congressional investigations; dangling carrots in front of people who might otherwise pose trouble for one's hold on power."

Tribe doesn't get into another avenue for removing Trump—the 25th Amendment, ratified in 1967. It provides that if the vice president and a majority of the president's Cabinet declare in writing that a president is unable "to discharge the powers and duties of his office," Congress by a two-thirds vote can remove him in favor of the vice president who has been serving as acting president.

In his absence, the House Speaker, currently Paul Ryan, would assume the presidency, followed by the Senate Pro Tem, Orrin Hatch of Utah. In any case, if the President were to certify his ability to resume his office, he would do so. Short of any such certification, he could also resign, as only Nixon has done to date.

But as for Donald Trump, it would be hard to imagine this man of huge self-esteem leaving the Oval Office voluntarily. So if the foes of the incumbent hope to remove him, they likely would encounter a difficult road ahead of them. In 1975, enough fellow Republicans threw in the sponge on Nixon. Would enough of today's timid GOP crew eventually do the same in the days ahead?

Bendision Ginen Hilu`

Guaha `nai huhuñgog masañgan pot "minaipen tautau". Lau kase guiya este gi un` palabra: matdision. Siña silensiu lau haf` kumilulog huyuñg siempre u birague` tatte gi pettan-mu mismu.

Hu akanteha para bai` komprende haf` sustansiaña. Era, i tinatemu i futtuna-mu. `Nai mauleg hau na kilisyanu piot ya geftau hau man-ayuda gi man-namase` mas felis hinanau-mu yan famaguonmu. Mit besis na bendision u fattu giya hagu ginen i Saina.

Guaha lokue` `nai tahuñgog na i Saina sen man-apase. Yangin ilelegta kastigu ginen guiya pues dudayu` kau tailaye i Nanalibreta. Nina`e kampu para un` ta`lun umatan kau sattun hau gi tinago`ña. Pot mantautau hit na kontodu inemug ta diseha gi otru. Fan asi`i sa` enague` tinago`ña.

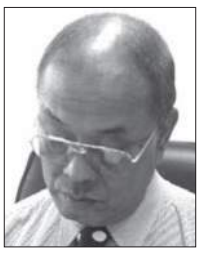
Un` talo`ane hu atan haye hupopo`lu kumu inemeguhu. Mangagau-yu` dispensu ya gi hilu` hinimiddi hu asi`i todu. Kulanyu` mahatsa gi fatachoñghu ya esta ñahlalañg siñiengtehu. Hu pega dispues todu inañgogho-hu giya guiya. Desde ayu na tiempu tatnai hu totpiyu` seriosu na problema.

Diariu na usun luseru gi tinayuyothu i pisun konsueluhu ginen hilu`. Aksepta i disposision i Saina sa` mas felis hinanaumu gi kareramu. Fan asi`i para un` ma-asi`i lokue`.

Destrosiu: Kase dies años tatte, estabayu` Kagman gi gima` cheluhu `nai sige i bisinu ha lofan maletan niha para i kareta. Era, para u an hanau para lagu Amerika pot taya` appottunidat cho`chu` guine.

Gi kombetsasion mame umanog hafa dichu na para u fan hanau. Sumaunau gi tropan mana` fan basta ni Fitial Administration. Appottunidat gi praibet mampus baratu i sueddu. Ni i gima` familia ti inapase.

Ha gomgumyu` ayu na gotpe. Unu i prohimu gi homesteaders ni humatsaye familiaña guma`. Dispues tinetpi appenas appottunidat cho`chu`. Guma` yan sitiu ha abandona gi un` sakudida ya ha diñgu i tanu`.



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Kumu padre de familia, hu komprendi pinadesin maliñgun appottunidat gi maprebeniye regulatmiente nesessidat familia. Sigeyu` dispues para iya hame. Tula noche ha estotbayu` pinadesin ayu na familia. Para ta luñu` hinaguñg niha pot natatah na politika? Ni lepblun Lusifet tihu soda` este na pahina!

Puntu: I amtau na kabisiyu siempre ha komprendi linala` familia. Yangin para u mueba siempre lokue` ha espihaye otru lugat para u soda` hinaguñg niha. Lau ti este masusedi.

Manmayute` gi un` banda kulan galagun halum tanu` lau mantautau. Makat na pinadesi lau siempre u kilulog ennau na malabida tatte ti todu mañaunau pumunu` ha`anen familia siha guihe na tiempu.

Espiritu: Guaha na ha`ane `nai buruka hinasoghu pot lamegai para bai` chogue piot ya tinetpi chatfelis na gaseta siha pot che`chu` kumbalache.

Hu usune malag papa` troñkun mañga umefresku guinaifen suabe na mañglu`. Bonitun sunidun hagun niyog ni ginagapot ni mañglu` piot `an oga`an.

Gi karera, guaha lokue` siha lugat `nai siña silensiu un` bisita para un` lipa hau. Primet lugat i Guma` Yuus, taduñg kañada, kantun tasi yan sadog. Gi katkuet lugat ni hufatoigue un` tiempu, hu sesienti presentin espiritu ginen antigu siha na mañainata.

Pas yan kontentu siñienteghu. Este siha na lugat i prenibeniyen i Saina pot para ta aligau gi halum katma yan silensiu esperansa yan pas gi ha`anita.

Mauleg i kantu tasi gi lemlem tautau. Siña mamokat hau manatan chagu gi hilu` katma na tasi mientras sige tinayuyotmu. Mauleg na okasion makula` asuntu siha ni umestototba hinassomu.

Nina`e hau kampu umasimula asuntomu gi hilu` ditetminasion para un` satba antes de un` diñgu i lugat. Esta ñahlalañg siempre siñientemu gi biradan para i gima`.

Chenot Kanset: Todu klasen kanset mapadedesi ni tautau-ta siha na tiempu. Desde titanos, halum pachut, guetgueru, estomagu, tilipas lodu` yan `nos kuantos chenot famalao`an. Taya` amotña fuerake sattun na inali`e yan mediku kada sakan.

Makat na pinadesi gi katkuet manera. Dañkulu na estotbu gi monedan familia piot `nai kada ratu mana`halum gi hospitat. Ayu mas makat i `nai mattu uttimu finu` mediku na sala` i chenot. Makone` i malañgu para i gima para uma-assiste estake madispone.

Hu hassu un` sutteritu kanset pechoña. Umasoda` ham Honolulu `nai mattu lokue` uttimu finu` i mediku na taya` esta siña machogue. Finagcha`e pueñgen Noche Buena. Hana`e-yu` i patgon ni dandaña ukulele para bai`n kanta sunidun Christmas. Hu cho`gue pot yine`ase`.

Tulanoche ham kumanta pues ilegña gi mesgu mataña, "Kase este uttimu na Noche Buena para guahu yan si nana-hu, Uncle John". Kadu` tihu huñgog lau klaru na finu` despedida ginen i patgon. Ha birague` tatte Saipan dispues ya madispone ti apmam yan finattoña.

Guaha otru siha man-atuñgo-hu pumadesi kanset estake manmadispone. Yangin un` padesi, fangagau ayudu gi Saina minesñgun gi halum ennau na mattiru. Tat mas ke bendisioña!

I Amiguhu: Sessu teñga umasablasus ham yan amiguhu Magoo man-ñahlalañg siha na asuntu yan ositan. Lau gi tatten mañge` chalegña katgadu sentimentun unestu na ekspressiu. Ni achog haf` i amiguhu tatnai hu fa`ichanag. Parehu ham tautau yan kilisyanu.

Should we wish for a President Pence?

President Mike Pence? The question is way ahead of where we are. There's no solid reason to expect that President Trump will leave office before his term is done, whether by resignation, impeachment or the untried mechanism of the 25th amendment.

But that hasn't stopped anyone from talking about it—from Republicans wistful for the days of a functional White House to Democrats trying to guess which unpalatable future would be worse for their battered party.

And the answer should be straightforward. Pence would be an improvement on grounds of simple competence. He would make the country safer. Under a President Pence, Americans would have less cause to fear that a blundering president might lead us into war with North Korea or Iran.

Progressives would find almost nothing to like in Pence's domestic policies. There's no sugarcoating that. He would be the most conservative president of modern times—easily more conservative than Trump, more even than Ronald Reagan, the right's patron saint.

His economic views are in line with orthodox Republicanism: lower taxes, smaller government, fewer regulations. Pence's positions on social issues spring from Christian conservatism: He's fiercely opposed to abortion, gay marriage and almost any expansion of rights for gays, lesbians and transgender people.

Despite all that, unlike the president, he has read the Constitution and understands its meaning. He would be less likely than Trump to try to pressure the FBI to drop an investigation, to take one example.

He has even defended freedom of the press. He was co-author of a bill to protect journalists from being compelled to identify their sources, and he founded a bipartisan press freedom caucus—along with, of all people, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Glendale), now one of the top congressional investigators pursuing Trump.

"He's a person of real integrity," said Rick Boucher, a former House member from Virginia who was the Democratic co-author of the bill to shield journalists. "He's very conservative, especially on social issues. But he does have respect on the other side of the aisle. He's very serious about public policy, and willing to work with Democrats where there's common purpose."

(That doesn't mean Boucher is ready to endorse his old colleague for president. "I was a strong Obama supporter," he said. "I won't sleep easy until there's a Democrat in the White House.")

To be sure, Pence already has questions to answer about his short tenure as vice president.

After Trump fired FBI Director James B. Comey, Pence vigorously parroted the White House's initial explanation that Comey was cashiered based on a recommendation from the Justice Department. That wasn't true—and Pence may have known it wasn't true at the time.

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

Pence has also maintained that he didn't know Trump's first national security advisor, Michael T. Flynn, was under investigation by the FBI when he was appointed. That denial may turn out to be true. Even though Pence was formally the chairman of Trump's transition, he wasn't in the president-elect's inner circle when the initial staffing decisions were made. There's plenty of evidence that even now, Trump aides spend much of their time hiding important facts from each other.

In any case, the FBI's investigation of Flynn is likely to bring any discrepancies to light. (In which case: President Paul Ryan? That's a matter for another column.)

As a matter of pure politics, it's impossible to predict whether a President Pence could improve GOP prospects in the 2018 congressional election or win re-election himself in 2020.

But Pence represents a slice of his own party, the social conservative right, which has never won a presidential nomination, let alone a general election. (George W. Bush ran with their support, as did Mitt Romney, but neither was as rooted among social conservatives as Pence.) He'd have a lot of work to expand his appeal beyond the GOP base, to attract independent Trump loyalists who might blame him for their man's downfall, or spurn him as the kind of establishment politician they abhor.

And, if he were to become president, he'd come under immediate pressure from those Trump loyalists to pardon his predecessor for any crimes committed in office or during the campaign. The last time that happened, when Gerald Ford pardoned Richard M. Nixon in 1974, it left the new president vulnerable to a Democratic challenger.

It's tempting, of course, for partisan Democrats to say: Let Republicans continue to struggle in the mess Trump makes. Why give them a chance to right their ship? The worse the better.

But that ignores the risks that would come from allowing Trump to continue exercising the powers of the presidency in both law enforcement and foreign policy. For the next three years, given the limited alternatives, I'd opt for President Pence—the sooner the better.

MANAFORT DESTINY
BY JOE "BAD HIRE" FOURNIER
IF YOUR CAMPAIGN MANAGER'S LAST EMPLOYER WAS UKRAINE PRESIDENT AND PUTIN PUPPET, VIKTOR YANUKOVYCH,
AND YOU CONTINUE TO PROCLAIM YOUR UNDYING LOVE FOR VLADIMIR PUTIN,
THEN YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T ACT TOO SURPRISED WHEN PEOPLE WONDER IF MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, MANAFORT WAS WORKING FOR THE RUSSIANS.

CLASS

From Page 10

with the selfies and focus on community engagement. Embrace your friends now, because they are precious and youth is fleeting. But embrace the experiences ahead. Reach out to people who do not look like you, think like you or talk like you, because that is where the adventures are hidden.

There is much written about student debt and the difficulties in paying off that debt. Making college more affordable is a laudable goal. But if you come to put on the cap and gown, you have been given something not measured in dollars. Education may be costly, but it is still a gift.

Class of 2017, share that gift, that enthusiasm for learning something new. It doesn't end with a diploma. In fact, that's just the beginning. The best part is yet to come.

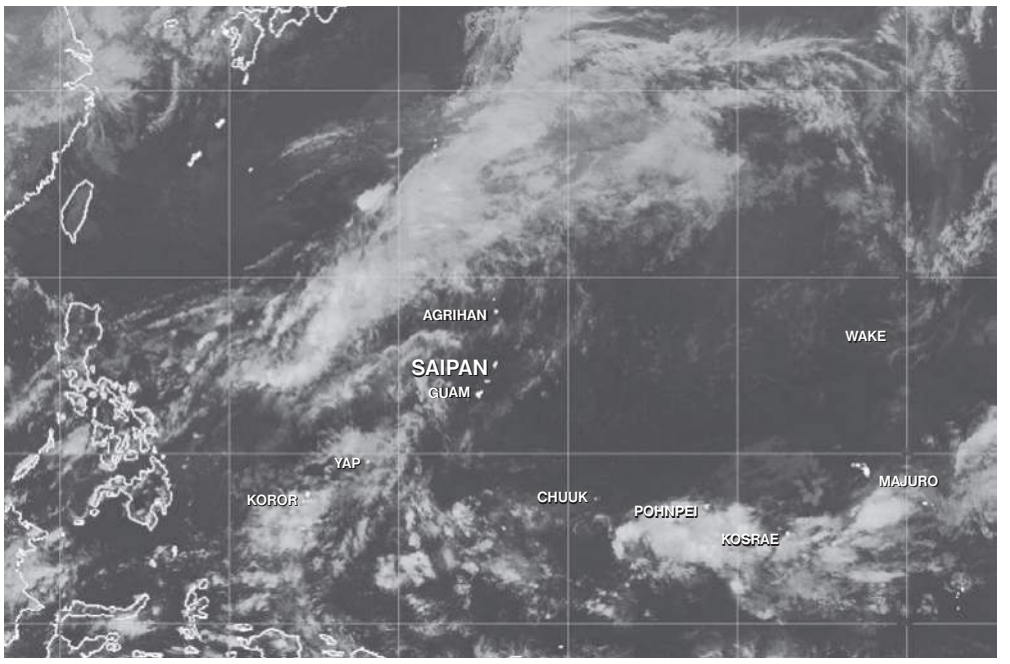
(c)2017 *The Record* (Hackensack, N.J.)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:00 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Based on satellite/radar and latest GFS, have forecast only a slight chance for showers today. The rest of the forecast is virtually the same as previous, with only isolated showers and diminishing winds the next few days as a surface ridge remains in the region.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	89 | 80 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	86 | 78 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	88 | 74 °F
Chuuk	Mostly sunny	86 | 81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 | 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 | 80 °F
Majuro	Mostly cloudy	86 | 81 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	58 | 47 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	89 | 75 °F
Hong Kong	Cloudy	81 | 77 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	82 | 73 °F
London	Cloudy	72 | 56 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly sunny	84 | 62 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	88 | 79 °F
Melbourne	Rain	63 | 54 °F
Miami	Sunny	85 | 76 °F
New York	Rain	72 | 57 °F
Osaka	Sunny	79 | 58 °F
Paris	Sunny	70 | 52 °F
Pusan	Mostly sunny	88 | 62 °F
Rome	Sunny	82 | 57 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	72 | 47 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	72 | 52 °F
Seoul	Sunny	84 | 60 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	80 | 65 °F
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	76 | 58 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:45 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.08
11:54 AM	LOW TIDE	0.14
7:07 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.93
12:40 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.15

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:13 AM	5:02 PM	-
Thursday	5:05 AM	6:05 PM	-
Friday	6:01 AM	7:09 PM	-
Saturday	7:00 AM	8:14 PM	-
Sunday	8:01 AM	9:16 PM	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

MCS board OKs master plan, raises wages again

MCS

Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, fifth from left, poses with members of the Mount Carmel School's board and leadership to present the school's first ever strategic master plan. From left to right: board treasurer Will Hunter, school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, school principal Frances Taimanao, board member Lynette Villagomez, Jimenez, board chair Vicente "Ben" Babauta, board member Merced "Marcie" Tomokane, board vice chair Jacqueline Che, board member Mark Rabauliman, faculty representative Rosiky Camacho, and Parent Teacher Organization president Luis Camacho.

MCS

The front cover of Mount Carmel School's first strategic master plan.

MCS

Mount Carmel School's board deliberates on the school's strategic master plan and proposed salary increase.

At its meeting this past week, Mount Carmel School's board approved the school's first ever strategic master plan, which included a planning priority to making teacher salaries competitive by increasing salaries for the second time in two years.

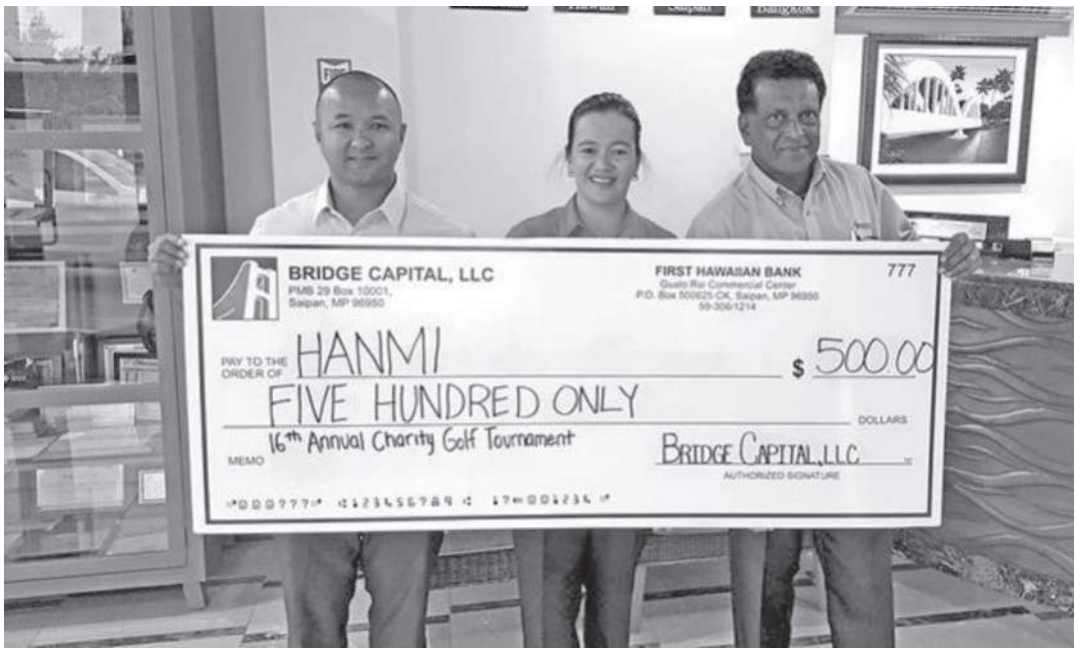
"This is just one more example of how our board and leadership are moving the school forward to provide the best Catholic education we can in our region," said school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "We are committed to improving teaching and learning by raising salaries, updating our curriculum, and improving our facilities and student support services, which are all included in the strategic plan."

The plan is the result of a two-year process of engaging stakeholders, including students, parents, faculty, staff, administrators, board members, and even the school's alumni.

The Strategic Planning Committee, which was chaired by board vice chair and 2005 alumni Jacqueline Che, identified six planning priorities for the plan: school finances, teaching and learning, student support services, facilities and resources, Catholicity, and supplemental programs. Each planning priority features a set of strategic objectives supported by specific action plans to move those objectives and priorities forward.

One strategic objective is making teacher salaries competitive in the current job market, in order to recruit and retain highly effective teachers. The board actually began fulfilling that objective when it raised teacher salaries by 14 percent two years ago, which was the first time that the school's teachers had gotten a raise in over a decade. For the upcoming 2017-2018 school year, the board voted to raise salaries by 5 percent as part of a long-term, sustainable plan to make salaries competitive.

School principal Frances Taimanao was very happy with the board's decision. As she put it, "This is a great way to show appreciation to our teachers, especially those who have been with us for many years. …This salary increase honors their commitment and dedication to our school." ***(MCS)***



BRIDGE CAPITAL DONATION

Bridge Capital, LLC Business Development manager Joseph Guerrero, left, presents a donation to 16th HANMI Golf Tournament committee members Socorro Huliganga, center, and Das Krishnan, right, on April 24, 2017. The tournament will be held at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course on June 24, 2017.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PIC DONATION

Pacific Islands Club recently announced a $2,500 cash and in-kind donation made to the 22nd Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions, which will be held on May 27 and 28, 2017 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. From left, Marie Sablan, TOC committee member; Yoshihito Shibahata, PIC general manager; Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director; Steve Balakrishna, PIC F&B director; and Marida Pensader, TOC committee member.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JKPL to hold 'Build A Better World' this summer

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is making summer break memorable by turning it into an educational adventure called "Build A Better World."

Readers of all ages are invited to join the 2017 Summer Reading Program at JKPL: The more books you read, the more points you earn and get great prizes. For children (ages 6 years old to 12 years old), the program will have activities such as Read Aloud & Craft/Reading Rangers, Computer Days, Special Guest Days, Movie Days (all ages), and Independent Reading Challenge and more.

Session 1 will run from June 6 to 16. Children ages 6-8 are scheduled at 8:30am to 11:30am. Children ages 9-12 are scheduled at 12:30pm to 3pm. Session 2 will run from June 20 to 30. Children ages 6-8 are scheduled from 8:30am to 11:30am. Children ages 9-12 are scheduled from 12:30pm to 3pm

JKPL is also encouraging teens to join the Teen Summer Library Experience that will run from June 6 to Aug. 4 and reach their summer reading goals. This will help them track their summer reading, learning, and earn points. Adults are invited to join the first Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program that runs from June 6 to Aug. 4 at the Adult Summer Library Institute. Adults who read or listen to eight books this summer will receive a gift for finishing.

Registration is ongoing everyday from 10:30am to 5:30pm until May 26 at the Children's Library. All participants must have a valid JKPL card with no pending fees or fines.

JKPL also said that its Bookmobile Summer Outreach Program will be on the move. It will be out in the communities promoting the library by visiting the Garapan Community Development Center July 5-7 for children ages 6-12 years old from 9am to 12:30pm; at the Fernando Benavente Memorial Library on July 18 -21, 2017, for children ages 6-12 years old from 9:30am to 12pm; Koblerville Youth Learning Center on July 25-28 for children ages 6-12 years old from 9:30am to 1pm; Tanapag Youth Center on Aug. 1-4 for children ages 6-12 years old from 9:30am to 12pm; and Kagman Community Center on Aug. 8-11 for children ages 6-12 years old from 9:30am to 12pm.

JKPL will also do home visits from July to August upon request from families who would like to be a part of the Children, Teen and Adult Summer Reading Program.

Check www.cnmilib.org or Facebook: joeten kiyu for the latest information or call 235-7315. For interested participants, visit the library during its hours of operation: Tuesday-Friday (10am-6pm), Saturday (9am-4.m), Sundays, Mondays, and holidays closed. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

T Galleria, Tribe Marianas launch collection

T Galleria by DFS has collaborated with Saipan's premier clothing brand, Tribe Marianas, in the launch of an exciting new collection of local, urban street wear.

Tribe Marianas, founded in the Mariana Islands, aims to share the islands' unique culture worldwide through their original designs, attention to detail and inspiration drawn from their island home.

This collaboration is an ongoing effort to engage island visitors and the community in what is authentic to the Northern Marianas. The collection which features 12 original designs of apparel pieces, is inspired by the brand's mission to promote the region, and bridge the gap across the 15 Mariana Islands, hence their motto: Divided by tide, united by pride.

Milan Rabold, general manager T Galleria by DFS, Saipan said, "We are excited to partner with Tribe Marianas to introduce this new collection in our stores. It truly depicts the spirit and culture of our islands, both to the local community and to those who visit us from around the world. Showcasing one of Saipan's premier brands is yet another great milestone in DFS' history. We value our commitment to the people and the islands of the Northern Marianas that we proudly serve."

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Tribe Marianas co-founders Robert Travilla, left, and T.J. Manglona give their remarks at the opening of Tribe Marianas at the T Galleria shopping center last Friday night.

Brand designer Rob Travilla said, "It is a dream come true to collaborate with T Galleria by DFS. We truly believe that this collaboration is monumental for the CNMI as it will bring together the concepts of urban street wear and luxury goods. Growing up on Saipan, DFS has always been a shopping staple that we looked up to. Being a small company from a tiny island, it is an honor to partner with a global brand like DFS."

This exclusive collection, depicting the talents of some of Saipan's best, can only be found at T Galleria in Garapan, the DFS Saipan Airport store, and at the DFS Galleria-Kanoa Resort. ***(PR)***

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Tribe Marianas merchandise sold at the T Galleria shopping center last Friday night was exclusively designed and can only be bought at the center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Close family members of co-founder and merchandise designer Robert Travilla, far left, pose for a photo last Friday night at the T Galleria.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

People line up to buy exclusive Tribe Marianas merchandise at DFS last Friday night.

Senate delays action on budget resolution

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate has not yet acted on House Concurrent Resolution 20-1 as they await the request made by the Fiscal Affairs Committee for a list of agencies that get non-general fund revenue.

Senate vice president Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota) said the committee needs more time to clarify certain issues that were raised in last week's meeting with Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and Office of Management and Budget special assistant and Capital Improvement Projects administrator Virginia Villagomez.

"We need to do some more clarification since some committee members need additional information. [Committee] members also requested the Finance secretary and OMB to provide us with more information," said Mesngon.

"That is the reason why we delayed passing HCR 20-1, why we held it back. We discussed it in the committee."

The committee, chaired by Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) asked for the list in order to equally distribute the funds and increase allocation for some agencies.

The CW fund, tobacco settlements, and CIP reimbursements are non-general fund sources. These funds are earmarked for some agencies under the CNMI government.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) introduced HCR 20-1 that would approve revenues and resources for the CNMI's 2018 fiscal year budget, which covers Oct. 1 this year to Sept. 30, 2018.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres submitted a budget of $145,260,075 after adjustments—like debt service settlement agreement, other revenues that were transferred to other funds, etc. The total identified budget amounted to $$236,770,472.

Judge rules Camacho's suit vs DPS shall proceed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court denied Monday the Department of Public Safety's motion to dismiss a discrimination lawsuit filed by police major Lawrence M. Camacho against DPS.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled that the suit shall proceed forward after ruling that Camacho has alleged sufficient facts to establish that DPS is the proper party to this lawsuit.

Lawrence Camacho, a 25-year veteran of the CNMI police force, sued DPS and the Civil Service Commission for allegedly not selecting him to a higher position despite being the only one qualified for the post.

DPS, through the Office of the Attorney General, had asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit.

In denying DPS's motion, Judge Camacho said that Lawrence Camacho went through the process required by the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations and the Civil Service Act.

The judge said that DPS has failed to show that Camacho's grievance is not subject to judicial review or that his grievance does not meet the procedural requirements for jurisdiction.

Thus, Judge Camacho said, the court has subject matter jurisdiction.

As the complaint concerns DPS' failure to address or settle the grievance and DPS' failure to use proper promotion procedures, it is an agency whose action is within the scope of judicial review, the judge said.

In DPS' motion, assistant attorney general Tom Schweiger said that Camacho's first claim against DPS is that then-DPS commissioner James Deleon Guerrero did not respond to his Aug. 17, 2015, letter.

Schweiger said Camacho states no statute, regulation, or case law which determines what "timely" means.

Schweiger said this claim is not a factual allegation but rather a legal conclusion.

Schweiger said CSC, the party responsible for the improper promotion and selection procedures that Camacho alleges has been dismissed from his court action.

He said Camacho cannot now try and hold another party responsible.

In his opposition to DPS' motion, Camacho, through counsel Robert Torres, asserted, among other things, that fairness matters in the merit promotion program because when employees leap-frog over others, even those that are not jumped are negatively affected.

"Fairness matters in the merit promotion program because failing to follow the rules in promotion procedures may also lead to corruption within an organization," the lawyer said.

Judge Camacho already dismissed CSC as a co-defendant in the separate discrimination lawsuits filed by Lawrence Camacho and Police Sgt. Jason T. Tarkong.

Judge Camacho issued the dismissal after Maj. Camacho and Tarkong, through Torres, and CSC, through counsel assistant attorney general Michael Witry, filed a stipulation to the partial dismissal of the cases.

The stipulation resolves CSC's role in the cases. It means that DPS is the remaining defendant in the lawsuit.

Tarkong, also a veteran of the CNMI's police force, also filed the same petition against DPS and CSC for alleged discriminatory practices as to hiring and promotions after he was not promoted to the rank of a sergeant.

Judge Camacho dismissed Tarkong's lawsuit last March after Tarkong and DPS agreed to drop the case as the underlying grievance has been resolved. Tarkong was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

HSEM and FEMA are working on CNMI typhoon plan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency hold an information analysis brief for the 2017 CNMI Catastrophic Typhoon Plan for CNMI leaders at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill.

Last May 18, the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, held an information analysis brief for the 2017 CNMI Catastrophic Typhoon Plan for CNMI senior leadership at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill.

The IAB presented the results of research and analysis done by the CNMI and FEMA core planning teams over the last several months. The results of the IAB provided specific facts and information to support the development of appropriate operational strategies for the Catastrophic Plan.

This will be the first official Catastrophic Plan for the CNMI. Development of the plan will continue into the fall of 2017 with a final approval pending at the end of the year.

"There were hard lessons learned during the recovery phase following Typhoon Soudelor in 2015," said Virginia Villagomez, the governor's authorized representative. "We are very pleased to have taken these important steps in formulating an official catastrophic plan that not only addresses some of the operational challenges facing the CNMI, but also prepares us to be much more resilient and responsive in the face of future disasters."

Gerald Deleon Guerrero, special assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management, said the ongoing planning coordination between HSEM and FEMA has been very beneficial for the CNMI's response to severe weather conditions.

"We understand that the CNMI is prone to natural disasters, so taking this proactive approach to improve our existing plans will allow us to be better prepared for the future," Deleon Guerrero added.

"The Senior Leader Steering Committee has approved the information analysis that will drive the development of response strategies for the 2017 CNMI Catastrophic Typhoon Plan," said FEMA Region IX acting regional administrator Dr. Ahsha Tribble. "We look forward to the courses of action in June, as the next step in the planning process."

The IAB attendees included Villagomez, Deleon Guerrero, Tribble, Janet Yocum, FEMA Region IX Pacific Area Office lead planner; Mark Armstrong, FEMA Region IX acting Operations director; representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Lt. Mihai Leta from the U.S. Coast Guard; Richard Sablan from the Saipan Mayor's Office; Brien Nicholas Jr., Nadine Deleon Guerrero, Quer-laine Blas, Naomi Ada, and Joey Dela Cruz from CNMI HSEM; Leona Sablan from the CNMI Hazard Mitigation Office; Reyna Saures and Patrick Guerrero from the CNMI Public Assistance Office; other FEMA planners; military partners; and other stakeholders that play a role in CNMI emergency management during times of disaster. ***(PR)***

MVA

Students from Grace Christian Academy Tinian stop by the Tinian Blowhole on May 18, 2017, as part of an island tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority as part of May Tourism Month.

Tinian Celebrates Tourism Month

Tinian is joining the celebration of May Tourism Month in the Marianas with activities targeting young and old, alike.

This month the Marianas Visitors Authority has organized a series of island tours for students of private and public schools, frontline government employees and senior citizens. The tours are being led by a professional tour guide to give participants the full experience of being a "Tourist for a Day" as they learn the about the historical, cultural, and scenic sites visited daily by tourists.

"These relics, including tour beautiful beaches, are part of our heritage, and I find it our duty to educate our people, especially at a very young age, of the importance of its preservation not only for our visiting tourists but for sustainability," said MVA Field Office supervisor Vida Borja. "How wonderful if everyone, especially frontline employees, were well-versed or could out rightly respond to any inquiries about these sites!"

On May 18, the MVA organized an island tour for Grace Christian Academy on Tinian, with other schools and offices to follow.

Residents are also encouraged to show their support for Tourism Month by observing "Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit" Island Wear Fridays and participating in Tourism Trivia on KCNM-KZMI, KKMP, KWAW, and Power 99.

Student winners of the "See My Marianas" Graphic Art Contest will be announced this week. This Saturday's Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held from 6pm to 10pm at Garapan Fishing Base and will feature the Chefs' Competition. ***(MVA)***

Fiduciary training in the CNMI in July

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies, in partnership with fi360, the recognized leader in investment fiduciary education, have organized a two-day fiduciary training program specifically designed for investment stewards to be held in the Northern Mariana Islands on July 10 and 11, 2017, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The Fiduciary Essentials Training will be held on July 10, 2017, from 7:30am to 5pm. It is a one-day classroom-based course, designed and instructed by fi360. The program will cover all of the components of a comprehensive investment process and related standards of care. Ross Fowler, AIFA president of fi360 Pacific, will teach the course. Those who complete the program will be awarded a certificate of completion and allow interested participants to apply for membership in the Fiduciary Academy.

The next day, July 11, will have the APAFS Investment Conference from 8am to 3:15pm. It is a one-day program that will address the fundamentals of investing in stocks, bonds and public real estate as well as address the critical asset allocation decision. Speakers from investment advisory firms that specialize in each topic will share their insights and answer questions.

The fee is $800 per registrant. Breakfast, lunch, and all course materials are inclusive. Group discounts are available for organizations that will be sending five or more registrants. APAFS institutional members with updated 2017 dues are entitled to a $50 discount.

For registration contact admin@apafs.org. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

SHRM meeting on Thursday

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter will have a membership meeting this Thursday, May 25, from 11:30am to 1:30pm at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

Thursday's meeting will feature Frank J. Campillo, MHP, from Calvo Insurance Underwriters, who will speak about the ongoing controversy over Obamacare versus the proposed Republican Party changes and other medical and insurance related issues.

A graduate of UCLA and a holder of the Managed Healthcare Professional designation from the American Healthcare Insurance Plans national association, Campillo serves as the health plan administrator for Calvo Insurance's SelectCare program.

Campillo will compare the Obama administration's Affordable Care Act with the Trump administration's American Health Care Act and discuss the pros and cons of the competing programs. He will also speak about the current and anticipated medical costs increase trend compared to decreasing global inflation rates. Campillo will also address recent regional changes in healthcare and how these affect both employees and employers.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an opportunity for employers, managers, and HR professionals and staff to better understand current healthcare-insurance trends. Campillo will respond to questions.

The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit nmichapter.shrm.org. ***(PR)***

Business

Trump's $4.1T budget relies on deep domestic cuts

WASHINGTON (AP—President Donald Trump's proposed $4.1 trillion budget slashes safety net programs for the poor, targeting food stamps and Medicaid, while relying on rosy projections about the nation's economic growth to balance the budget within 10 years.

The cuts are part of a budget blueprint for the upcoming fiscal year that amount to a dramatic restructuring of the government, with protection for retirement programs for the elderly, billions of dollars more for the military and the rest of the government bearing the bulk of the reductions.

The plan was outlined in White House summary documents. It will be officially released on Tuesday.

The politically perilous cuts to Medicaid, the federal-state health care for the poor and disabled; college loans, food stamps and federal employee pension benefits guarantee Trump's budget won't go far in Congress, even though Republicans control both the House and Senate. Those cuts follow a partial plan from March that targeted domestic agency operations and foreign aid that were quickly dismissed by lawmakers.

"I just think it's the prerogative of Congress to make those decisions in consultation with the president," Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said as he predicted the Medicaid cuts wouldn't survive the Senate. "But almost every president's budget proposal that I know of is basically dead on arrival."

The plan cuts almost $3.6 trillion from an array of benefit programs and domestic agencies over the coming decade. It assumes Republicans will repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health care law, known as "Obamacare," while reducing Medicaid, eliminating student loan subsidies, sharply slashing food stamps and cutting $95 billion in the program for highway funds for the states.

AP
In this photo taken May 2, 2017, Budget Director Mick Mulvaney speaks at the White House in Washington.

"We need people to go to work," White House budget director Mick Mulvaney told reporters Monday. "If you are on food stamps, we need you to go to work. If you are on disability and you should not be, we need you to go back to work."

The budget plan reflects the small-government views of Mulvaney, a former tea party congressman; Trump has so far displayed little interest in budget issues and the plan is being released while the president is on his first overseas trip.

Trump's plan promises that overhauling the tax code and easing regulations will lift economic growth from the lackluster 2.1 percent average rate of recent years to sustained annual gains of 3 percent or better. Higher growth means lower deficits and Trump's plan folds in more than $2 trillion in unspecified deficit savings over the coming decade from "economic feedback" to promise balance.

Without the juiced-up growth projections, Trump's plan would be almost $500 billion in the red instead of sporting a small surplus in 2027, the target year.

Trump would keep campaign pledges to leave core Medicare and Social Security benefits for the elderly alone. His cuts to domestic agencies budgets approved by lawmakers each year would be redirected to the Pentagon. He promises a new parental leave program championed by his daughter Ivanka, but will fall short on his promises for a massive tax cut.

Among the cuts:

-Medicaid would be reduced by more than $600 billion over 10 years by capping payments to states and giving governors more flexibility to manage their rosters of Medicaid recipients. Those cuts are paired with the repeal of Obamacare's expansion of the program to 14 million people and amount to, by decade's end, an almost 25 percent cut from present projections.

-A 10-year, $191 billion reduction in food stamps—almost 30 percent—goes far, far beyond prior proposals by congressional Republicans. The program serves about 42 million people.

The budget lands as Trump's GOP allies in Congress are grappling with repealing and replacing Obama's health care law and looking ahead to a difficult rewrite of the loophole-clogged tax code. Trying to balance the budget isn't in the plan in Congress, but conservative Republicans are pushing for some action this year on spending cuts.

That includes cuts to pensions for federal workers and higher contributions toward those pension benefits, as well as cuts to refundable tax credits paid to the working poor.

On taxes, Trump promises an overhaul that would cut tax rates but rely on erasing tax breaks and economic growth to avoid adding to the deficit. It would create three tax brackets—10 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent—instead of the current seven.

The budget adds details to the earlier blueprint, which proposed a $54 billion, 10 percent increase for the military above an existing cap on Pentagon spending, financed by an equal cut to nondefense programs, which meant slashing medical research and foreign aid. Law enforcement and border security would get increases, however.

At least one Cabinet-level official, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, said Monday he would work with Congress to ensure money for the 17 national laboratories and other projects.

Insurers seek stability as Trump delays health care decision

WASHINGTON (AP)—Uncertainty over the future of health care for millions grew deeper Monday as insurers released a blueprint for stabilizing wobbly markets and the Trump administration left in limbo billions of dollars in federal payments.

At the federal courthouse, the administration and House Republicans asked appeals judges for a 90-day extension in a case that involves federal payments to reduce deductibles and copayments for people with modest incomes who buy their own policies. The fate of $7 billion in "cost-sharing subsidies" remains under a cloud as insurers finalize their premium requests for next year.

In requesting the extension, lawyers for the Trump administration and the House said the parties are continuing to work on measures, "including potential legislative action," to resolve the issue. Requests for extensions are usually granted routinely.

Hours before the filing, a major insurer group released a framework for market stability that relies in part on a continuation of such subsidies.

The BlueCross BlueShield Association represents plans that are the backbone of insurance markets under the Affordable Care Act, or ACA, and would also be the mainstay with a Republican approach.

As the GOP-led Congress works on rolling back major parts of the Obama law, the BlueCross BlueShield plan called for:

■ Continued protections for people with pre-existing medical conditions and sustained federal funding to offset the cost of care for the sickest patients.

■ More leeway for states to experiment with health insurance benefits, with a basic floor of federal standards.

-Preserving ACA consumer safeguards including no lifetime caps on benefits, no higher premium for women based on gender, and a requirement that insurers spend a minimum of 80 cents of every premium dollar on medical care.

■ Penalties such as waiting periods for people who fail to maintain their coverage. Republicans want to repeal the Obama-era tax penalties on uninsured people deemed able to afford coverage.

■ Significant federal funding to subsidize premiums and out-of-pocket costs.

"There needs to be sustained federal funding," said Justine Handelman, policy chief for the insurer group. "It's critical to ensuring overall affordability."

Sony chief promises profitability, but is short on specifics

TOKYO (AP)—Sony's leader promised a comeback for the Japanese electronics and entertainment company having its best profitability in two decades.

"We are a company that moves people," said Chief Executive Kazuo Hirai, as he outlined the strategy for the company at its Tokyo headquarters Tuesday.

But he said he cannot give away details of products in the works such as those using artificial intelligence or the "internet of things," or IoT, technology.

He stressed the profitability in sprawling Sony Corp., including its lucrative PlayStation video-game business, which just came out with a popular virtual-reality headset.

Hirai also told reporters another important area is Sony's TV sector, which has been in the black for the last few years, after losing money for a decade.

He also said profits will be improved in smartphones and movies.

Hirai, who took leadership of the company five years ago, acknowledged Sony has never in its seven decades experienced extended periods of profitability.

He stressed that Sony has announced an ambitious goal of achieving operating profit of 500 billion yen ($4.5 billion) for the fiscal year ending March 2018.

Sony's woes have stemmed from having so many diverse areas it has been almost impossible to do well across the board.

When questioned how profitability will be gained in the movies division, Hirai said he hoped to get a hit by working with creators with a good "batting average," and take advantage of hit content it already has, such as the "Spider-Man" series.

But the major task of restructuring has been completed, he added. Sony has been selling its assets, to ensure profitability, including its Vaio personal computer business. That was needed because Sony could not hope to be unique in PCs, Hirai said.

Nation

Nearly 740K foreigners overstayed US visas last year

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Nearly 740,000 foreigners who were supposed to leave the United States during a recent 12-month period overstayed their visas, the Homeland Security Department said Monday, detailing a crucial but often overlooked contributor to the number of people in the country illegally.

President Donald Trump has proposed spending billions of dollars to erect a wall on the U.S. border with Mexico and hire more border agents, but those measures would not address people who arrive legally and stay after their visas expire. An estimated 40 percent of the roughly 11 million people in the country illegally stayed past their visas.

There were 739,478 overstays from October 2015 through September 2016 among visitors who arrive by plane or ship—more than the population of Alaska.

The total number of overstays is much larger but has not been quantified because the statistic doesn't include how many people leave by land.

The cost and technological hurdles to develop a check-out system at congested land crossings are enormous because the sites are so busy. Last year, Homeland Security tested facial scans at a San Diego border crossing but has npt said if the technology works or will be expanded.

Homeland Security last year published the number of overstays for the first time in at least two decades, saying 527,127 people who came by air or ship stayed past their visas from October 2014 to September 2015.

This year's report added student and foreign exchange visitors and many visa categories for temporary workers, while last year's only counted business travelers and tourists. Homeland Security said it will make additional improvements in future reports, including more data on people who cross by land.

Overstays accounted for 1.5 percent of the 50.4 million visitors who arrived by plane or ship in the latest period, Homeland Security said. Canada occupied the top slot for overstays among business travelers and tourists, followed by Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela and the United Kingdom. Germany, Colombia, China, India and Italy rounded out the top 10.

AP

In this June 5, 2014 file photo, a Border Patrol agent uses a headset and computer to conduct a long distance interview by video from a facility in San Diego.

The overstay rate was much higher among students and foreign exchange visitors, with 79,818 of 1.5 million, or 5.5 percent, staying after their visas expired. China had the largest number of student overstays, followed by Saudi Arabia, South Korea, India and Brazil.

Trump vowed during last year's campaign to finish building a system to record when visitors leave the country by using biometric identifiers, like facial or iris scans, but he has focused much of his attention on building a wall and hiring more border agents.

Homeland Security's internal watchdog said earlier this month that immigration agents waste their time logging in and out of archaic computer systems while trying to track down foreigners suspected of overstaying their visas only to find out later that many visa holders have left the country.

ACROSS THE NATION

FBI: Passenger appeared intoxicated, needed help onto plane

HONOLULU (AP)—A man who caused a disturbance on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu had no luggage other than a laptop and needed a wheelchair to board the plane because he was under the influence of drugs or alcohol, according to court documents released Monday. Anil Uskanli, who has a Turkish passport, didn't have any checked or carry-on luggage for Friday's American Airlines flight, a criminal complaint filed in federal court said. Uskanli, 25, boarded only with a laptop, phone, laptop charger and some items in his pockets. Flight attendants feared the laptop contained explosives, the complaint said, and two fighter jets were summoned to escort the plane to Hawaii. He was arrested in Honolulu and charged with interfering with a flight crew. He spoke with a Turkish interpreter before a brief court hearing Monday, where a judge ordered that he undergo a mental competency evaluation. Federal Public Defender Peter Wolff said he requested the evaluation partly because of the actions described in the criminal complaint. The Bureau of Prisons will determine where he will go for the evaluation.

Man dies after being sickened in apparent botulism outbreak

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A botulism outbreak linked to contaminated nacho-cheese dip sold at a Northern California gas station has killed one man and left at least nine other people hospitalized, health officials said Monday. The San Francisco County coroner's office identified the dead man as Martin Galindo-Larios Jr., 37. Matt Conens, a spokesman for the California Department of Public Health, declined to release further information on the death, the current condition of the other victims, or the status and extent of the investigation into the outbreak, discovered by early this month. Family members of Galindo-Larios did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. An online fundraising page said he was married and the father of two small children.

California's legal pot law helps reduce, erase convictions

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jay Schlauch's conviction for peddling pot haunted him for nearly a quarter century.

The felony prevented him from landing jobs, gave his wife doubts about tying the knot and cast a shadow over his typically sunny outlook on life.

So when an opportunity arose to reduce his record to a misdemeanor under California's voter-approved law that legalized recreational marijuana last year, Schlauch wasted little time getting to court.

"Why should I be lumped in with, you know, murderers and rapists and people who really deserve to get a felony?" he said.

This lesser-known provision of Proposition 64 allows some convicts to wipe their rap sheets clean and offers hope for people with past convictions who are seeking work or loans. Past crimes can also pose a deportation threat for some convicts.

It's hard to say how many people have benefited, but more than 2,500 requests were filed to reduce convictions or sentences, according to partial state figures reported through March. The figures do not yet include data from more than half of counties from the first quarter of the year.

While the state does not tally the outcomes of those requests, prosecutors said they have not fought most petitions.

Marijuana legalization advocates, such as the Drug Policy Alliance, have held free legal clinics to help convicts get their records changed. Lawyers who specialize in pot defense have noted a steady flow of interest from new and former clients.

Attorney Bruce Margolin said he got two to three cases a week, many of them decades old.

Margolin has spent most of his five-decade career fighting pot cases and pushing for legalization of marijuana, even making it a platform for unsuccessful runs for state Legislature and Congress.

A coffee table in the waiting room of his office is covered with copies of High Times magazine, a book called "Tokin' Women," a history of women and weed, and copies of Margolin's own guide to marijuana laws in every state. His office in the back of a bungalow in West Hollywood has the faint whiff of pot in the air.

Since the passage of Proposition 64, he's gotten convicts out of prison, spared others time behind bars and successfully knocked felonies down to misdemeanors.

But he's also encountered a lot of confusion about the law that went into effect immediately in November.

"They were totally unprepared," Margolin said of judges and prosecutors in courts he's appeared in throughout the state. "It's amazing. You would have thought they should have had seminars to get them up to speed so we don't have to go through the process of arguing things that are obvious, but we're still getting that."

That has not been the case in San Diego, where prosecutors watched polls trending in favor of marijuana legalization and moved proactively to prevent chaos, said Rachel Solov, chief of the collaborative courts division of the district attorney's office.

They learned lessons from the 2014 passage of Proposition 47, which reduced several nonviolent felonies to misdemeanors.

Prosecutors in the county researched which convicts serving time or probation were eligible for sentence reductions and notified the public defender's office so they could quickly get into court. Many were freed immediately, Solov said.

"Whether we agree with the law or not, our job is to enforce it," Solov said. "It's the right thing to do. If someone's in custody and they shouldn't be in custody anymore, we have an obligation to address that."

San Diego County led the state with the most number of petitions reported in the first two months after the law passed. It has reduced sentences or convictions in nearly 400 cases, Solov said.

In Mendocino County, where pot farming is big business and violent crimes are often tied to the crop, District Attorney C. David Eyster said he fights any case not eligible for a reduction, such as applicants with a major felony in their past, a sex offense or two previous convictions for the same crime.

He said he would also fight a reduction if someone is caught cultivating weed while committing an environmental crime, such as stealing or polluting water. Otherwise—in a quirk that has some in law enforcement baffled—someone caught with two plants or 2,000 would both face a misdemeanor.

"This is one of those areas where size doesn't matter," Eyster said.

Asia

Ex-S. Korean president begins corruption trial

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—In handcuffs, her eyes downcast, former South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Tuesday began a corruption trial that could send her to prison for life if she is convicted.

Police escorted Park as she emerged from a bus, her inmate number 503 attached to her dark-colored jacket, into the Seoul Central District Court. Her hands were then un-cuffed and she entered the courtroom and was seated before a three-judge panel while a throng of journalists captured images, often in extreme close up, of her somber face.

When Judge Kim Se-Yun asked Park, "What is your occupation?" she replied: "I don't have any occupation."

Her longtime confidante, and the woman she is accused of conspiring with, Choi Soon-sil, sat near Park. The two had been friends for four decades but did not acknowledge each other.

When addressed by a judge, Choi sobbed as she answered questions about her address and occupation.

Prosecutors then read out the charges.

"The accused Park Guen-Hye, in collusion with her friend Choi Soon-Sil, let Choi, who had no official position, intervene in state affairs ... and they abused power and pressured business companies to offer bribes, thus taking private gains," said senior prosecutor Lee Won-Seok.

Park

Once the most powerful person in the country, Park now faces judgment over charges that include extortion, bribery and leaking government secrets. The trial has captivated many here; local TV channels repeatedly replayed the video of Park walking into the courtroom and sitting before the judges.

"I am here to witness a new chapter of history being unfurled," spectator Lee Jae-Bong, 70, told a pool reporter. "I think Park must be punished thoroughly and never be pardoned so that such a bad thing may never happen again."

Tuesday's hearing marks Park's first public appearance since she was jailed in the early hours of March 31. Her arrest came weeks after she was removed from office in a ruling by the Constitutional Court, which upheld the December impeachment by lawmakers after massive street protests over the corruption allegations began last October.

Prosecutors boast of having "overflowing" evidence proving her involvement in criminal activities. They accuse Park, South Korea's first female president, of colluding with Choi to take about $26 million from the country's largest companies through bribery. She also allegedly allowed her friend to manipulate state affairs from the shadows.

A spokesman from the presidential Blue House said the office has no official statement to make on Park's trial. New liberal President Moon Jae-in took office this month after winning a special election to replace Park.

The scandal has led to the indictments of dozens of people, including former Cabinet ministers, senior presidential aides and billionaire Samsung scion Lee Jae-yong, who is accused of bribing Park and her friend, Choi Soon-sil, in exchange for business favors. Lee faces a separate trial.

Park has apologized for putting trust in Choi but denied breaking any laws and accuses her opponents of framing her. Choi also denies wrongdoing.

3 years after coup, Thailand sees sporadic, unnerving unrest

BANGKOK (AP)—Three years after military leaders overthrew a democratically elected government in Thailand, the country is sputtering economically, suppressing political freedom and still the site of sporadic but unnerving unrest.

On Monday, a bomb exploded in a military-run hospital in Bangkok, wounding 21 people on the third anniversary of the 2014 coup. Police did not directly link the blast to the anniversary, but the timing and the site of the attack were striking.

The army chief, Gen. Chalermchai Sittisart, said Monday's explosion and two recent minor blasts used similar explosive materials and were likely part of an attempt to disrupt the government.

"All of this was conducted with the goal of creating disorder to the administrative work of the government and NCPO," he said, referring to the National Council for Peace and Order, the official name of the ruling junta.

But he cautioned that "we shouldn't conclude anything yet" about who was behind the attack.

Sansern Kaewkumnerd, a government spokesman, confirmed that a bomb exploded on the ground floor of Phramongkutklao Hospital. Investigators found remnants of batteries, wires and nails at the scene, authorities said.

Three years ago, Thailand's army commander appeared on TV screens across the country, vowing to restore order after months of political deadlock, protests and sometimes-deadly violence. Without firing a shot or spilling any blood, the military staged its second coup in eight years—and its 12th successful putsch since the end of absolute monarchy in 1932.

Just months after the 2014 coup, junta leader Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha became prime minister, trading in his army uniform for civilian garb.

Now, the country remains solidly under military control.

Critics say the junta has failed to fulfill pledges to respect human rights and restore democratic rule.

"Three years after the coup, the junta still prosecutes peaceful critics of the government, bans political activity, censors the media and stifles free speech," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

The military government has boosted prosecutions under the draconian lese majeste law, under which insulting the monarchy can land someone up to 15 years in jail. The military government has made punishing perceived royal insults a priority.

Earlier this month, Thailand backed off a threat to block Facebook, instead providing the social media site with court orders to remove content that the government deemed illegal.

A spate of bombings has unnerved Thailand in the years since the coup. Since 2014, at least six explosions have struck the capital. Most caused only minor damage, except for a blast on Aug. 17, 2015, that killed about 20 people near a popular Hindu shrine.

World

Blast at Ariana Grande concert kills 19 people

AP

Emergency services work at Manchester Arena after reports of an explosion at the venue during an Ariana Grande gig in Manchester, England Monday, May 22, 2017.

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—An explosion struck an Ariana Grande concert attended by thousands of young music fans in northern England, killing at least 19 people and injuring dozens in what police said Tuesday was being treated as a terrorist attack.

Greater Manchester Police said 19 people were confirmed dead after the explosion at Manchester Arena. Northwest Ambulance Service said 59 injured people had been taken to hospitals, and a number of "walking wounded" were treated at the scene.

Police cars, bomb-disposal units and 60 ambulances raced to the scene as the scale of the carnage became clear.

"We are currently treating this as a terrorist incident until we know otherwise," said Ian Hopkins, chief constable of Greater Manchester Police.

There was panic after the explosion, which struck around 10:30 p.m. (2130GMT) Monday night as Grande was ending the concert, part of her Dangerous Woman Tour.

Grande, who was not injured, tweeted hours later: "Broken. From the bottom of my heart, I am so so sorry. I don't have words."

Manchester Arena said on its website that the blast struck outside the venue as concertgoers were leaving. Some eyewitnesses said it happened in the foyer of the arena just after the concert ended.

One witness said Grande had just finished her final song and said "Thank you, Manchester," before leaving the stage.

The incident led to a night-long search for loved ones as parents tried to locate their teenage children and groups of friends scattered by the explosion sought to find one another.

Taxi services offered to give stranded concertgoers rides home for free, and residents opened their homes to provide lodging for people who could not get home because public transport had shut down.

City officials said the true spirit of Manchester would shine through despite the horrendous incident.

Twitter and Facebook were filled with appeals for information about people who had not been accounted for.

Jenny Brewster said she was leaving the concert with her 11-year-old daughter when the blast hit.

"As I turned around, boom, one loud noise," she told Sky News. "A gentleman said 'run!' so we ran."

Outside, she said, "you could smell the burning."

Britain's terrorist threat level stands at "severe," the second-highest rung on a five-point scale, meaning an attack is highly likely.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Online, supporters of the extremist Islamic State group, which holds territory in Iraq's Mosul and around its de facto capital in the Syrian city of Raqqa, celebrated the blast.

One wrote: "May they taste what the weak people in Mosul and (Raqqa) experience from their being bombed and burned," according to the U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group.

If the incident is confirmed as a terrorist attack it would be the deadliest in Britain since four suicide bombers killed 52 London commuters on three subway trains and a bus in July 2005.

"A huge bomb-like bang went off that hugely panicked everyone and we were all trying to flee the arena," said concertgoer Majid Khan, 22. "It was one bang and essentially everyone from the other side of the arena where the bang was heard from suddenly came running towards us as they were trying to exit."

Added Oliver Jones, 17: "The bang echoed around the foyer of the arena and people started to run."

Video from inside the arena showed concertgoers screaming as they made their way out amid a sea of pink balloons.

British Prime Minister Theresa May said the government was working to establish "the full details of what is being treated by the police as an appalling terrorist attack."

May is due to chair a meeting of the government's COBRA emergency committee later Tuesday. She and other candidates suspended campaigning for Britain's June 8 election after the blast.

Police advised the public to avoid the area around the Manchester Arena, and the train station near the arena, Victoria Station, was evacuated and all trains canceled.

The Dangerous Woman tour is the third concert tour by 23-year-old Grande and supports her third studio album, "Dangerous Woman."

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING:

Wild Irish daylily continues to mesmerize

Wild Irish daylily is evergreen, fragrant and a repeat bloomer. TNS

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

This is my fourth year to be watching our American Hemerocallis Display Garden and each year the selection Wild Irish catches my eye like few other daylilies. Each year I post it on our Facebook and the hits views and likes come pouring in. It's no wonder that an internet search finds it readily available from numerous sources.

Wild Irish was released in 2004 and in daylily years that is like ancient history. Think about when you get an email; and you promise yourself you'll respond but in just days it is covered up by countless others. That is the way it is in the world of daylily hybridizing.

So for Wild Irish to have a shelf life of over a dozen years says something about its showy blooms and quality performance. The fact that I've been drooling over it for four seasons also says something.

According to the American Hemerocallis Society, Wild Irish is a tetraploid with scapes or stalks that reach 28 inches in height, producing a bud count of 18, which open into glorious 5 1/2 inch flowers. I'll admit I added the editorial adjective glorious as the blooms show-off deep burgundy, with gold edge above yellow green throat. If that wasn't enough consider it is fragrant, evergreen and re-bloomer.

Wild Irish was hybridized by Gaskin Daylilies in Nashville, Ga. A couple of other dazzling selections in our garden that originated with their family are Christmas Cotton and Phantom of Gascone.

A visit to their website (gaskindaylilygarden.com) will most likely stun you with the incredible cultivars developed over the last decade. There are so many daylilies to know and enjoy. While the Gaskin family is in Georgia know that there are most likely wonderful daylily hybridizers near you.

Daylilies require at least six hours of direct sunlight each day for best performance. Best results are obtained from raised beds rich in organic matter. Almost every problem phone call I used to get on daylilies, other than a few insects, originated with daylilies planted in soggy soils.

Be sure and add a good layer of mulch to hold moisture, keep the soil cool, and to prevent weeds. I am a pine straw nut for mulch, but I have to admit that a layer of pine bark mulch around a daylily loaded with blooms is a wonderful sight.

Daylilies are best planted in the early spring or fall, although container grown plants can be planted through out the growing season with outstanding success. So you can shop while they are blooming and pick the color and form that is most appealing.

To keep energy being put into flower production, keep seed pods picked off and feed with a complete and balanced fertilizer every four to six weeks. It is also very import to remove any diseased foliage if it develops during the long summer.

Perhaps you haven't tried daylilies because the flowers only last a day. Remember, each scape or flower stalk has many buds and these open in a series, giving you beauty for not only days but weeks and even months if they repeat.

Even though our bed is dedicated as an American Hemerocallis Display Garden we incorporate other perennial partner plants to add color and interest when the daylilies are out of season. Try using Blue Fortune agastache that sends-up dozens of blue bottle-brush-like flowers, purple coneflowers, gloriosa daisies and spikey blue salvias.

I hope you take the opportunity to visit and shop for daylilies at your favorite garden center or perhaps a daylily farm and see what has transpired in this favorite of perennials.

In Loving Memory of
†Arsenia Dalayoan Hernandez
Lovingly known as "Senyang" or "Sen"
Born on December 14, 1937 and was called to Eternal rest on
May 11, 2017 in San Diego, CA
In her new life she joins:
Husband: †Brigido S. Hernandez
Father: †Pioquinto Dalayoan
Mother: †Balbina R. Dalayoan
Sisters: †Eduarda D. Paragas
†Rebecca D. Lising
Her memory will live forever in the hearts of her:
Children:
Nory D. Hernandez (Shani Pearl & McKnight, Otto Owen, Krystal Erin, Kayla Kirby, Tyler Matthew)
Sally H. & Perry J. Cacdac (Nigel Perry)
Ramon D. & Julie A. Hernandez (John Ray & Rheilyns, Jerol & TJ, Jillian Roby & Leo, Michael Jay
Glenda H. & Ric S. Mendiola (Ashley, Nicole, Rico Richard & Ryan)
Cora D. Hernandez (Cameren Kyle)
Sister: Priscilla D. Joven
She is additional survived by her numerous great grandchildren, brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.
Funeral Services will be held on Monday, May 29, 2017.
Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30am.
Responso service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:15am.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 followed by interment service at Sanctuario Paz Memorial Gardens in Kagman, Saipan, where she will be at a peaceful rest.
Please Join Us In Prayers
Children and Families

Life & Style

Much-anticipated Ariana Grande concert ends in blood, horror

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—A highly anticipated night for Ariana Grande fans ended in blood and terror after an explosion tore through the foyer of the Manchester Arena.

At least 19 concertgoers were killed and about 50 others were injured Monday night.

Shaun Hunter was with his daughters—Eva, 10, and Ruby, 12—all wearing kitten ears like the star of the show when the house lights went on. He called the rush of concertgoers after the explosion "a stampede."

"I saw one bloke carrying his daughter. She was bleeding," Hunter told The Times of London.

Police said they were treating the incident as terrorism.

Grande, who had just left the stage, was unhurt.

Social media carried messages from families concerned about missing loved ones.

Ellie Ward, 17, made his way out of the arena after the blast, and found his 64-year-old grandfather, who had been waiting for him when the explosion happened.

"He said he only realized what had happened when he felt the side of his head and it was bleeding," the younger Ward told The Guardian newspaper.

"He's OK but he's cut his cheek," she said. "They said he had severed an artery. A lot of glass shattered on him."

"Everyone was screaming and running," Robert Tempkin, 22, told The Times. "There were coats and people's phones on the floor. People just dropped everything."

Elena Semino and her husband were waiting by the arena ticket office for her daughter when the explosion went off.

"My husband and I were standing against the wall, luckily, and all of a sudden there was this thing," she told The Guardian. "I can't even describe it. There was this heat on my neck and when I looked up there were bodies everywhere."

Despite wounds to her neck and a leg, Semino dashed into the auditorium in search of her daughter while her husband, who had only a minor injury, stayed behind to help an injured woman. She found her daughter Natalie, 17, and her friends safe.

AP
Armed police work after an explosion at the Manchester Arena in Manchester, England Tuesday, May 23, 2017.

Man charged in scheme to sell paintings from $500M art heist

BOSTON (AP)—A West Virginia man tried to fetch millions for two oil paintings he did not have access to and falsely claimed were stolen in the largest art heist in U.S. history, federal authorities said Monday.

Todd Desper, of Beckley, West Virginia, was arrested Monday at his home on wire fraud charges. He will appear first in a federal court in West Virginia Tuesday before facing the charges in Boston in June. It couldn't be determined Monday if he has an attorney.

FBI Agent Geoffrey Kelly said in an affidavit that Desper, 47, solicited buyers on Craigslist for two of the most valuable paintings stolen from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990: "Storm on the Sea of Galilee" and "The Concert." He used a digital image that was a purported close-up of one of the paintings, Kelly said.

The actual paintings were among 13 stolen in the still-unsolved heist. The FBI told The Associated Press in August 2015 that two suspects who masqueraded as police officers to rob the museum of $500 million worth of masterpieces are deceased.

Desper sought $50 million for "The Concert" and $5 million for "Storm on the Sea of Galilee," authorities said.

Authorities were notified by individuals seeking to help recover the artwork and those seeking the $5 million reward offered by the museum.

Authorities said Anthony Amore, the security director for the Gardner Museum, worked with federal authorities to determine whether Desper actually had access to the paintings.

Federal prosecutors said the investigation ultimately found that Desper had no access to or information about the paintings and was engaged in a multimillion dollar fraud scheme targeting foreign art buyers.

Desper denied having knowledge of the museum theft when questioned, according to the affidavit.

Zack Snyder exits 'Justice League' after daughter's death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The recent death of director Zack Snyder's daughter has driven the prominent filmmaker to step away from finishing the ensemble superhero movie "Justice League."

A source close to production who was not authorized to speak publicly said Monday that director Joss Whedon would take over completing the film, which should still hit its Nov. 17 release.

Snyder and his wife and producing partner Deborah Snyder told The Hollywood Reporter they will be using the time away to focus on their family and seven children.

The Reporter story stated Snyder's 20-year-old daughter, Autumn, killed herself in March. Coroner's spokesman Ed Winter said Autumn Snyder's March 12 death is being investigated as a possible suicide due to an overdose of prescription medications. The official cause of death has been deferred pending toxicology results.

Snyder

Snyder told the magazine that at first he tried to throw himself back into work, but in the past two months realized he needed to be with his family—especially as additional photography shoots in London loomed on the horizon.

"They are all having a hard time. I'm having a hard time," Snyder said.

The Snyders are cornerstone players in Warner Bros. production of DC Comics films. He directed both "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" and "Man of Steel" and is serving as a producer on the additional films in the DC Universe, including last year's "Suicide Squad" and the upcoming "Wonder Woman."

"Justice League" is a critical entry in the slate of DC films, bringing together major superheroes like Ben Affleck's Batman, Henry Cavill's Superman, Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman, Ezra Miller's The Flash and Jason Momoa's Aquaman.

Whedon, who directed the Marvel Comics ensemble films "The Avengers" and its sequel "Age of Ultron," and is writing and directing "Batgirl" for Warner Bros., has been working with Snyder on "Justice League" for over a month. In addition to post-production work, Whedon will also shoot some additional scenes for the film.

5 jurors picked for Cosby trial, 2 know a sex assault victim

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The search for 12 jurors and six alternates for Bill Cosby's sexual assault trial is off to a brisk start even though a third of the initial jury pool had an opinion about Cosby's guilt or innocence and an equal number said they or someone close to them had been sexually assaulted.

Cosby

Three men and two women, all white, were selected Monday. The lawyers studied each person's race, sex, age, occupation and interests to try to guess their inherent sympathies, experts said. Cosby, in an interview last week, said he thinks race "could be" a motivating factor in the accusations against him.

"You're looking for what people already believe," said University of Pittsburgh School of Law professor David Harris. "People don't take in new information and process it. They filter it into what they already know and think."

The actor-comedian once known as America's Dad for his portrayal of Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" is charged with drugging and molesting a Temple University women's basketball team manager at his home near Philadelphia in 2004. He has called the encounter consensual.

Dozens of other women have made similar accusations against Cosby, 79, but Judge Steven T. O'Neill is allowing only one of them to testify at the June 5 trial in suburban Philadelphia. The jury from Pittsburgh will be sequestered nearly 300 miles from home.

The jurors' names, ages and occupations were being kept private. Two of the men selected said they or someone close to them had been sexually assaulted, but they insisted they could judge the case fairly. Sometimes that is not so easy, one law professor said.

"It's one thing to set aside intellectually what you know, but it's another to set it aside emotionally," said Laurie Levenson, a Loyola Law School professor.

The case against Cosby has attracted worldwide publicity that the judge hopes to shield from jurors during the trial.

Cosby came to court on the arm of an aide, carrying a box of tissues, and frequently conferred with his three lawyers at the defense table. Lead defense lawyer Brian McMonagle said his client was eager to get the process started. Cosby has said he does not expect to testify.

Mark Zuckerberg says he's not running for public office

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg says his quest this year to visit every state he hadn't before is about building relationships, not politics.

The 33-year-old billionaire wrote in a Facebook post that some users have asked if the trip means he's running for public office. Zuckerberg says he's not running for anything. Instead, he says the visits around the country are in order "to get a broader perspective."

He said Facebook is looking to connect users beyond people they already know, and he wrote that it may be important that the platform connects users to "people you should know." He describes those as people outside a user's social circle who he says "provide a new source of support and inspiration."

Facebook is exploring models for building those connections, Zuckerberg said.

Zuckerberg

He wrote the post Sunday from Newport, Rhode Island, where he was spotted with his wife, Priscilla Chan. Massachusetts real estate broker Gisele Borghani said she and her family were walking on a crowded sidewalk to Newport's Easton's Beach when they nearly bumped into the couple.

"I said, 'Hi,' and he smiled back and she smiled back," Borghani said. "They were just minding their own business like two normal people."

She said Chan was wearing a baseball cap from Maine, where the couple was spotted a few days ago . The couple was flanked by two bodyguards, who were walking about 10 feet back, she said.

Borghani said the resort town was packed with people enjoying the beautiful weather and the city's oyster festival.

Zuckerberg and Chan then traveled to Providence on Monday to visit the Del Sesto Middle School. The Providence Public School District said it was expecting representatives from the couple's Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, and "was delighted when the foundation's namesakes showed up in person."

The couple and their organization's education director, Jim Shelton, also met Monday with Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo to talk about personalized learning. The organization has donated to a statewide initiative that uses technology and targeted instruction to tailor learning to each student.

Rebel Wilson tells court Australian articles hurt her career

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—A tearful Rebel Wilson testified on Tuesday that a series of magazine articles published in Australia were a deliberate attack on her character and damaged her acting career.

Wilson is suing Australian publisher Bauer Media for defamation over several articles published in 2015 that the Australian-born actress said led to her film contracts being terminated. The articles said Wilson had lied about her name, age and upbringing in Australia.

AP

In this Oct. 19, 2016, file photo, Rebel Wilson attends the 5th Annual Australians in Film Awards held at NeueHouse Hollywood in Los Angeles.

Wilson wiped away tears as she testified in the Supreme Court of Victoria, rejecting the publisher's argument that the stories were light-hearted and had no serious impact on her career.

"These articles were a deliberate malicious take-down of me," the actress testified.

Wilson, known for her work in comedies such as "Pitch Perfect" and "Bridesmaids," said she has only had two roles since the articles were published, one for the film "Absolutely Fabulous" and the other

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Judge: Sound engineer can't publish unreleased Prince tracks

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A sound engineer who worked with Prince is barred from publishing or disseminating any unreleased recordings that compromise the late superstar's work. George Ian Boxill worked with Prince on five tracks in 2006 and made at least one recording—"Deliverance"—available online last month. Prince's estate and Paisley Park Enterprises sued to block it. On Monday, U.S. District Judge Wilhelmina Wright issued a preliminary injunction saying Boxill and independent label RMA can't publish unreleased recordings until the dispute is resolved. They are also barred from using Prince's trademark to sell or promote "Deliverance." The lawsuit says Boxill signed a confidentiality agreement that the recordings would remain Prince's property. Prince sings and plays guitar and keyboard on the tracks. Prince died last year of an accidental opioid overdose.

Sony chief promises profitability, but is short on specifics

TOKYO (AP)—Sony's leader promised a comeback for the Japanese electronics and entertainment company having its best profitability in two decades. "We are a company that moves people," said Chief Executive Kazuo Hirai, as he outlined the strategy for the company at its Tokyo headquarters Tuesday. But he said he cannot give away details of products in the works such as those using artificial intelligence or the "internet of things," or IoT, technology. He stressed the profitability in sprawling Sony Corp., including its lucrative PlayStation video-game business, which just came out with a popular virtual-reality headset. Hirai also told reporters another important area is Sony's TV sector, which has been in the black for the last few years, after losing money for a decade. He also said profits will be improved in smartphones and movies.

PLANE AUCTION AP

This undated photo provided by GWS Auctions, Inc. shows a private jet once owned by Elvis Presley, on a runway in New Mexico. The plane is set to be auctioned after sitting on a runway in New Mexico for 30 years. GWS Auctions Inc. out of California is holding the auction for the plane on May 27, 2017 at an event featuring A-list celebrity memorabilia. The interior was designed by Elvis Presley, with gold-tone, woodwork, inlay and red velvet seats and red shag carpet. However, the plane has no engine and the cockpit has not been restored.

New job in new state tests strength of men's relationship

DEAR ABBY: I am a gay man who has been dating a divorced man for nine months. I'm 25 and he is 50. He was married to a woman for more than 20 years and has three children. (I am the age between his middle and oldest children.) We met one day and have never been apart since.

It started great. We had a connection I had never experienced before I met him. He was let go from his job, and I supported him for some time. He finally found a job in Georgia, and I am left in New York.

I made plans to move there with him, but I'm nervous about it. First, because I have never been in love before and I'm not sure if he's as in love with me as I am with him. Second, he cheated on his wife with a man my age. The guy left him right before he met me, and I'm not so sure he is completely over him. (I know they are still in contact, but he has never lied about it.)

I'm worried he might cheat on me too, or worse, give his ex another shot, and I'll be left on the sidelines. What advice can you offer me?

WANTS TO MAKE THE RIGHT MOVE

DEAR WANTS: Do nothing drastic right now. Pay him a visit. Without committing yourself, take a look around to see if Georgia might suit you.

You say this man hasn't lied to you. While you're there, ask him whether he would give his ex another shot if the man were willing. However, don't prejudge him because he was unable to remain faithful to his wife. Like some gay men who come out later in life, he may not have fully realized that he was gay until some time after they were married. It happens.

DEAR ABBY: I work in a company that has small offices. Although most people have their own office, I share one because I was the last guy hired.

I have one co-worker who I really like, but he has a serious problem. He—and his wife, I suspect—don't do laundry. This results in him having serious odor. When he comes into my office or I have to go into his, or even walk by his door, the smell is seriously rank. How do I tell him or his superiors about this issue?

HOLDING MY NOSE IN TEXAS

DEAR HOLDING: Go to your supervisor and explain the problem. You should not have to counsel the offending employee; the boss, your supervisor or someone in human resources should do it. If the problem is as severe as you say it is, it probably won't be the first time they have heard about it because others will have noticed it and complained, too.

DEAR ABBY: I have a new neighbor, and after meeting just once, she declared us to be "great friends." I work full time and she doesn't, so anytime I'm home she wants to get together. That would be fine if I liked her, but I don't! We are complete opposites, and she has a major gambling problem. How do I gracefully say I'm not interested in being friends?

PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE

DEAR PLEASE: The poor woman is new in the neighborhood. That may be why she's reaching out the way she is. When she suggests getting together, explain that you have a full-time job and things you need to do at home, so the answer is you don't have time. Sorry.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

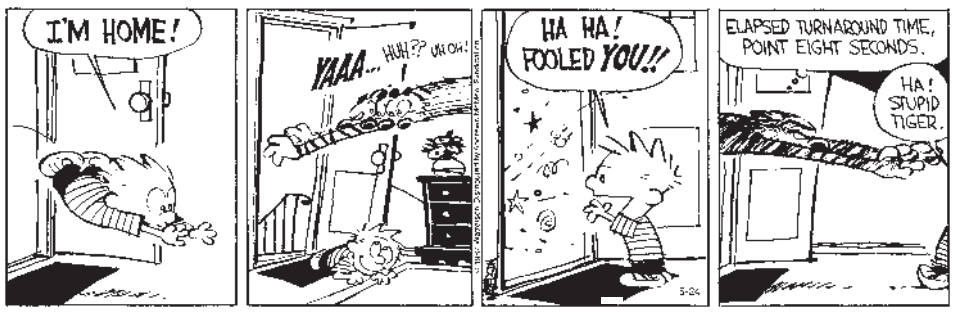
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHERE'S DAD?
SLEEPING OFF HIS BIG DAVE'S MEAL.
WAS THE MAYONNAISATERIA EVERYTHING HE DREAMT IT WOULD BE?
OH, YEAH. AND THEN SOME. HE WAS IN HEAVEN.
DID HE DO HIS "HAPPY FOOD DANCE"?
YEP. UNTIL THE MAITRE D' THREATENED TO HAVE HIM RESTRAINED.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

OUR TEAM IS NEVER GOING TO BE COMPETITIVE IF THEY CAN'T MASTER THE FUNDAMENTALS.
YEAH - THEY GOTTA WORK ON FIELDING AND HITTING.
I MEANT TYING THEIR SHOES AND ZIPPING THEIR PANTS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Petrol
4 USMC rank
7 Humpty's perch
8 Ram
10 Donnybrook
11 Wine storage area
13 Assemble, as parts of a puzzle
16 Day fractions (Abbr.)
17 '90s candidate Ross
18 Contented sound
19 Campus VIP
20 Singer Guthrie
21 County expos
23 James — Garfield
25 Spanish ayes
26 Espy
27 Hosp. hookups
28 Farewell
30 ER workers
33 Tranquility
36 Offshore drilling platform
37 Egged on
38 France's longest river
39 Hebrew month
40 Susan of "L.A. Law"
41 Recipe abbr.

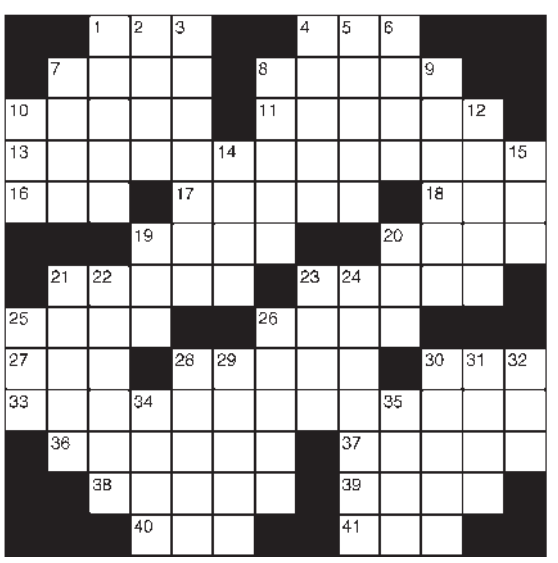
DOWN

1 Strong winds
2 Actor Baldwin
3 Unexpected hit
4 "Please" in Pisa
5 Steak cut
6 Ancient Brit
7 Dam
8 Future oak
9 African desert
10 Speedometer stat
12 Kingdom
14 Afternoon affairs
15 Pi follower
19 Cato's 502
20 Curator's focus
21 "Hawaii —" (CBS police drama)
22 Attack
23 Lacked originality
24 Arrangement of flowers
25 Use a straw
26 Burn slightly
28 High nest
29 Milk seller
30 Excavate
31 Stagger
32 Norm (Abbr.)
34 Oaf
35 Web addresses

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	I	A	B		U	E	B		G	I	L	D
O	S	L	O		U	R	I		C	D	E	R
R	A	S	P		T	R	O	M	B	O	N	E
T	R	O	P	I	C	S		A	L	L	O	W
			E	T	H		B	Y	E			
M	C	O	D	S		I	H	O	I	S	K	Y
E	A	R			C	H	O			T	I	A
T	R	O	L	L	E	Y		S	P	E	A	K
			E	E	L		A	H	A			
S	U	R	G	F		T	R	O	I	K	A	S
T	R	O	U	S	E	R	S		R	O	N	A
A	D	A	M		R	I	O		E	N	D	S
N	U	D	E		S	O	N		D	A	S	H

Yesterday's answer 5-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joey Logano, 27; Mark Ballas, 31; John C. Reilly, 52; Bob Dylan, 76.

Happy Birthday: You will learn from watching and observing what others do and how they react. Take comfort in seeing and knowing that life itself isn't complicated; it is people who make situations problematic. Stick to the truth and honor your promises, and life will run smoothly. Any unexpected changes should be treated as a signal to make the most of whatever transpires. Your numbers are 3, 14, 22, 27, 31, 39, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Personal improvements will lead to gains. Improving or updating your appearance, mastering a creative skill or enhancing your chances to get ahead will all be worth your while. Romance and talks regarding a personal relationship are favored. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You'll find it difficult to separate your emotions from your job. Try not to let your work suffer due to a secretive situation. Your inability to get things done will arouse suspicion that could be damaging. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You will come up with a remarkable idea if you use the mistakes that others make as the basis for your plans. Live and learn and you will surpass any competition you meet along the way. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Let your creative side take over and you will come up with ample ideas to help you take care of your responsibilities quickly so that you can move on to more enjoyable pastimes. Keep your life simple and practical. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stay focused on work and doing what's expected of you. Maintaining your status quo by taking care of your responsibilities on time will be essential. An evening with friends, relatives or someone you love will calm your nerves. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Participate in events that will take you in a new direction. Use your intelligence and your insight to help you turn whatever you do into something of value and good quality. Don't be afraid to do things your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* As long as you don't go over budget, you should be able to follow through with your home improvement plans. Choose quality over quantity and you won't be disappointed. An opportunity to visit someone will lead to an unexpected promise. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Friendships will grow if you share your thoughts and feelings. Plans can be made that will encourage you to explore unfamiliar territory. Look at your alternatives and the costs involved to make the changes you desire before moving forward. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A steady pace and plenty of common sense will be required if you want to keep up and finish what you start. Taking on responsibility comes with a commitment to deliver what you promise. Hard work will lead to greater opportunities. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put some muscle behind the alterations you want to make at home. When all is said and done, you will enjoy relaxing with someone who pitched in and helped. Don't let anyone make you feel guilty for doing what you want. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Any chance you get to work alongside someone you find energizing and inspirational will also motivate you to make changes to the way you look as well as to where and how you live. Positive gains are heading your way. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Show how creative you can be. Use old ideas and methods in order to come up with something new and trendy. A unique way of marketing what you have to offer will encourage someone influential to take note. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, understanding and respected. You are progressive and benevolent.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	6			5	7		
1			3		4			6
			8					9
			9					5
		9				4		
			4					8
			7					1
3			5		8			7
	1	7			8	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	9	8	2	7	5	4	6	3
4	6	7	3	9	1	8	2	5
2	5	3	6	8	4	1	9	7
8	3	5	1	2	6	9	7	4
6	2	9	4	5	7	3	1	8
7	1	4	9	3	8	2	5	6
5	4	6	8	1	2	7	3	9
3	8	1	7	6	9	5	4	2
9	7	2	5	4	3	6	8	1

Difficulty level ★★ 5/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ALKALINE Solution: 4 letters

H	E	I	S	F	X	A	L	F	U	F	O	T	E	E
T	E	G	L	E	O	B	B	E	A	N	S	N	C	V
R	E	A	A	A	L	O	O	K	V	L	N	A	I	I
A	S	L	L	B	K	P	D	D	I	E	A	L	U	H
E	T	L	L	T	B	L	P	S	Y	E	L	P	J	C
T	R	P	I	I	H	A	A	A	S	L	S	G	P	O
A	E	I	D	O	M	B	C	A	R	S	O	G	A	L
N	N	N	I	A	S	I	T	E	A	D	E	E	R	L
A	G	R	C	L	L	A	B	R	A	P	E	A	S	A
R	T	U	A	A	H	M	G	C	M	F	U	E	L	R
G	H	T	N	P	U	T	O	I	O	N	I	Z	E	D
E	E	T	S	C	A	V	N	N	O	M	E	L	Y	S
M	R	O	U	E	A	T	E	I	D	R	I	N	K	S
O	H	C	H	S	T	U	O	R	P	S	T	E	E	B
P	O	W	E	R	O	C	K	S	P	I	N	A	C	H

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Acid, Alkali, Almonds, Apples, Avocado, Basil, Beans, Beets, Body, Cabbage, Cayenne, Chive, Cilantro, Collards, Cucumber, Diet, Drinks, Earth, Eggplant, Flax, Foods, Fuel, Health, Ionized, Juice, Lemon, Level, Metals, Millet, Mint, Parsley, Peas, Phosphatase, Pomegranate, Power, Rocks, Soils, Spinach, Sprouts, Strength, Tofu, Turnip, Wheatgrass

Yesterday's Answer: Money

Treasuries 13 through 28 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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JOB VACANCY – Assistant HOTEL MANAGER

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- Develop and implement effective and efficient marketing strategy, in particular work with local travel agencies and online travel booking companies to maximize marketing awareness with key customer groups and penetration.
- Communicate with customers when appropriate to address any complaints, find solutions to problems or offer information.
- Deal with maintenance issues, and equipment and building and landscaping.
- Establish good working relationship with external parties, suppliers, travel agencies, event organizers.
- Inspect and ensure maintenance of all facilities and ensure compliance with all health and safety requirements and other local government compliance and licensing issues.

Requirements
- Proven experience in the hospitality industry with 3-5 years' experience in similar role.
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- Excellent customer service skills.
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Curry's 36 points leads Warriors to sweep Spurs, 129-115

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Golden State made sure the inevitable was unavoidable.

Heavily favored to beat the Spurs, especially once Kawhi Leonard sustained a series-ending injury, the Warriors completed a dominant sweep in the Western Conference Finals.

Stephen Curry scored 36 points and Golden State beat injury-ravaged San Antonio with a 129-115 victory Monday night, becoming the first team in league history to start the playoffs 12-0.

"(Being) 12-0 is great, but it doesn't mean anything going into the next series, and we understand that," Curry said.

Golden State led by as many as 22 points in cruising to its third straight NBA Finals. The Warriors await a possible third straight championship matchup with Cleveland, which leads Boston 2-1 in the East finals.

"It's great to be one of the last two teams standing, we'll see how it goes," said Kevin Durant, who had 29 points and 12 rebounds.

San Antonio's only lead came on the opening possession when Manu Ginobili tossed in a left-handed scoop shot. The Spurs started Ginobili in what could be his final game with the team. The 39-year-old had maintained he will not ponder whether to retire or return until after the season.

"We started him tonight out of respect," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "That was the whole reason for starting him. Before the game, you think it may or may not be his last game that he ever plays in, and I did not want to miss the opportunity to honor him in front of our home fans for his selflessness over the years."

Unsure if the beloved veteran will return, the crowd serenaded Ginobili with "Manu, Manu" chants as the game came to a close.

"He kind of worked us pretty good these four games," said Draymond Green, who had 16 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Warriors. "So, I think he's got quite a bit left in the tank. Obviously, it's up to him how much longer he wants to go. But one thing about it, he's definitely not a liability on the floor."

Ginobili finished with 15 points in 32 minutes.

Kyle Anderson scored 20 points to lead the Spurs, who were without Leonard, Tony Parker and David Lee.

"Obviously it (stinks) that Kawhi wasn't there and Tony wasn't there and David wasn't out there," Green said. "But, at the end of the day, a win is a win and you have to beat whoever is out there against you."

San Antonio didn't go down without a fight despite the injuries.

Anderson dove on the court for a loose ball that the Spurs had tipped away defensively, pushing the ball upcourt to Patty Mills who fed Ginobili for a 3-pointer that pulled San Antonio to 108-94 with 7 minutes remaining.

The effort made Popovich smile and clap at times, but the Warriors' depth and talent proved too much for shorthanded San Antonio.

"It's the second time we've gotten swept in 15 years, and those are the easiest to digest because you've been overplayed," Ginobili said. "The opponent was better than us, and in this case, way better than us."

AP

Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green carries the trophy as Kevin Durant, left rear, and Stephen Curry, front right, cheer after their 129-115 win over the San Antonio Spurs during the second half in Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals, Monday, May 22, 2017, in San Antonio.

'He's human': Cavs coach defends LeBron after 'weird' loss

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—LeBron James was nowhere to be seen, staying behind the scenes, keeping a low profile.

Just as he did in Game 3.

James did not address the media Monday, hours after one of the worst postseason games of his career, an 11-point, six-turnover, head-scratching atrocity in a 111-108 loss to the Boston Celtics that—for the time being—has made the Eastern Conference finals interesting.

As is always the case with Cleveland's superstar, the poor performance prompted the usual speculation and suspicion: Is he hurt? Was he sending a message to his teammates? What in the name of Red Auerbach happened?

"It was a weird game," Cavs coach Tyronn Lue said. "A weird-feeling game."

And it was an uncharacteristically passive performance by James, who had scored at least 30 in eight straight playoff games and imposed his will on the overmatched Celtics in the series' first two games.

But James wasn't himself Sunday night, not by a long stretch. He passed up shots and made mental and physical mistakes normally reserved for others.

For a superstar who regularly seizes the biggest moments and makes them his own, it was strange to see James basically look like one of Cleveland's reserves. He took just three shots and didn't attempt a free throw in the fourth quarter.

Incredibly, he went scoreless over the final 16 minutes.

James accepted responsibility afterward, saying simply "I didn't have it" during a postgame news conference that was preceded by a run-in with a heckling fan in the hallway.

If James' play wasn't stunning enough, Cavs forward J.R. Smith said his celebrated teammate lacked confidence.

What's that? A three-time champion, four-time MVP, two-time Olympic gold medalist, global icon, billion-dollar-business-in-sneakers, wasn't confident?

"He's got to be aggressive, get downhill, play like he's been playing, play confident," Smith said. "That's what I always think, when people of his stature or people like him, you've got to play confident the whole night and play aggressive. It's the Eastern Conference finals. It's not enough for him. For what he does, what he brings, it's not enough.

"He knows that. We know that. Just expect him to be better in Game 4."

The series resumes Tuesday night at Quicken Loans Arena before returning to Boston on Thursday for a Game 5 that didn't appear necessary until the Celtics stormed back from 21 down and won when Avery Bradley's 3-pointer danced an Irish jig on the rim before falling with 0.01 seconds left.

It was Boston's first outing since star guard Isaiah Thomas was shut down with a hip injury, and the Celtics showed they're capable counter-punchers.

"You obviously hear people saying that it's all about how you respond, and we don't feel like people believed in us and counted us out," Bradley said. "But that just put another chip on our shoulder, which I think is good. I hope we can continue to play with that chip on our shoulder and come out the same way next game."

Thomas didn't travel with the club to Cleveland, but he was part of the postgame fun.

"We called him on FaceTime, so he got to celebrate with us a little bit," Bradley said. "We wish he was here with us, and we just want him to get better."

Boston's comeback was fueled by Thomas' replacement, Marcus Smart, who made 7 of 10 3-pointers and scored 27 points. The Cavs chose to go under screens, giving Smart room to shoot and he burned them badly.

"Marcus Smart made 15 out of 77 off-the-dribble threes this year," Lue said, defending his defensive plan on Smart. "He made some last night."

As Lue spoke to a large group of reporters and some Cavs players got in extra shots following practice, James was noticeably absent from the floor. Usually, he hangs around to work on his game, but on this day No. 23 wasn't visible.

Lue said James was "in good spirits" and that no one was pinning the loss on him.

"No blame. We're all to blame," Lue said. "We lost; it happens. For a guy who played great for five straight months, he's got to have a bad game sooner or later. He's human. He didn't shoot the ball well. It wasn't his ordinary game. But Kevin (Love) and Kyrie (Irving) had it going early and they played well, so it kind of got him out of rhythm a little bit in that first half.

"That's no excuse. They played well, but we've just got to play better, be more physical."

Source: Magic hire Weltman to head basketball operations

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The Orlando Magic have reached for an unknown to fill the role of president of basketball operations.

A person familiar with the negotiations says the Magic have agreed to hire Toronto general manager Jeff Weltman to head up the basketball operations. The person, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the deal has not been announced, said Monday night the two sides have agreed to a deal.

Weltman, who has also worked in the front offices of Milwaukee and Denver, comes to the Magic with no experience as head of basketball operations. He was the Raptors' vice president of basketball operations for four years before taking over last September as GM under team president Masai Ujiri.

Weltman will report directly to Magic president Alex Martins.

Weltman's first major hire will be to find a replace for Rob Hennigan as general manager after he was fired last month because he failed to put the team into the playoffs in his five years on the job. It had been speculated the Magic would pursue Cleveland GM David Griffin but with the hire of Weltman it seems unlikely that Griffin would make a lateral move.

Matt Lloyd, who has been the interim general manager since Hennigan was fired, is a candidate for the permanent job. He has been heavily involved in the upcoming NBA Draft where the Magic currently hold the No.6 overall pick.

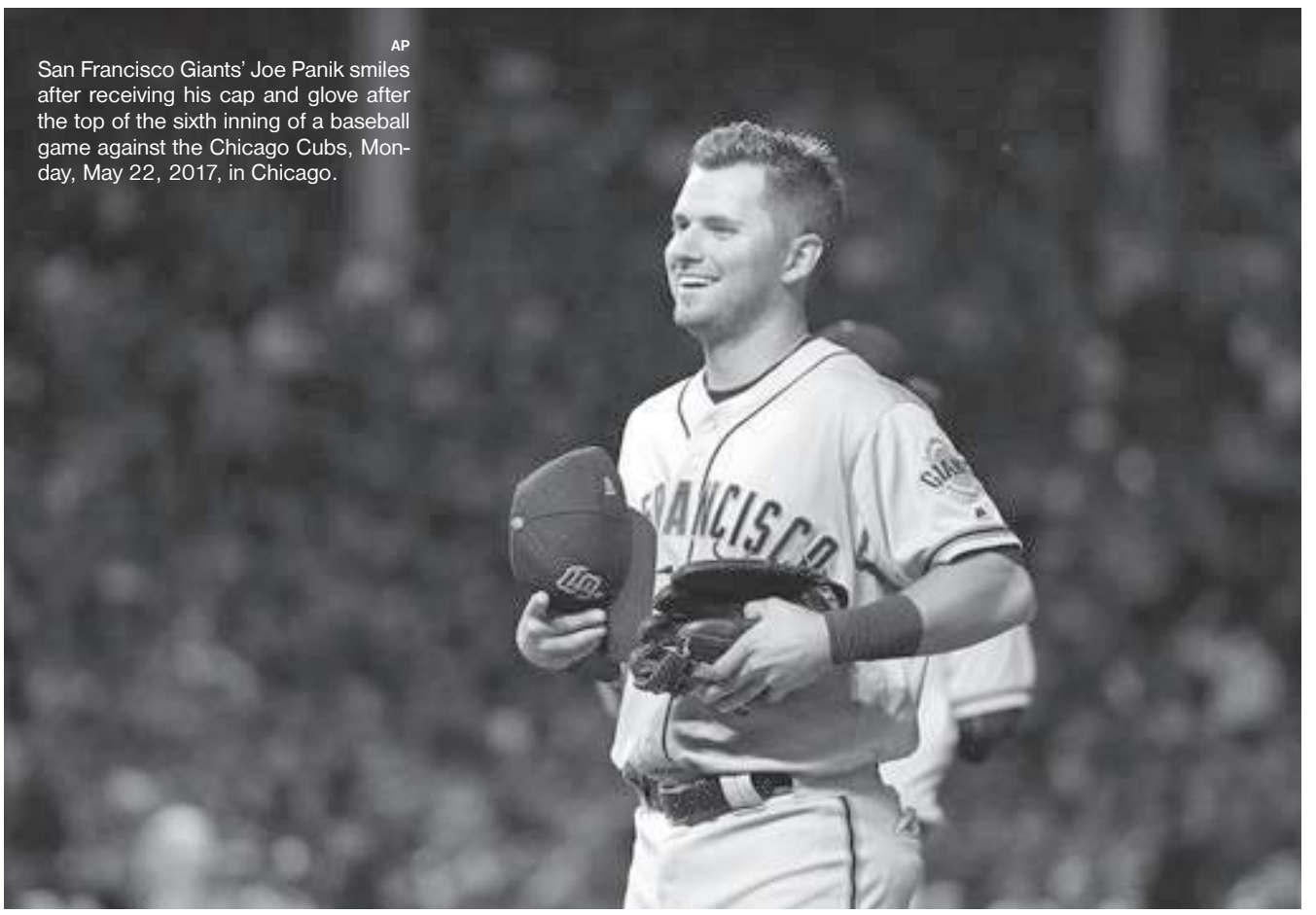
Panik homers as Giants beat Cubs, 6-4

CHICAGO (AP)—Joe Panik hit his first career leadoff homer and doubled twice to help the San Francisco Giants beat the Chicago Cubs 6-4 on Monday.

Brandon Belt also connected while Ty Blach (2-2) pitched into the eighth inning in the first meeting between the teams since San Francisco was eliminated by Chicago in the NL Division Series last year. Panik, Belt and Justin Ruggiano each had two RBIs as the Giants won for the eighth time in 10 games.

Ruggiano's leadoff drive in the eighth made it 6-0 and gave San Francisco 18 straight solo homers, just three from matching its major league record of 21 set in 2011.

The Cubs responded with four in the bottom half on two-run homers by Javier Baez and Ben Zobrist. But the rally stalled from there.



AP

San Francisco Giants' Joe Panik smiles after receiving his cap and glove after the top of the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs, Monday, May 22, 2017, in Chicago.

Yankees 4, Royals 2

In New York, Didi Gregorius, Brett Gardner and Chris Carter all homered as New York beat Jason Vargas again in defeating Kansas City.

A reversed call in the seventh inning kept the Yankees ahead and enabled Michael Pineda (5-2) to top Vargas for the second time in a week. The Royals, with the worst record in the AL, have lost five of seven.

Vargas (5-3) began the day with a 2.03 ERA, tied for second-best in the majors. But the lefty fell to 0-7 lifetime against the Yankees when he was tagged by Gardner and Gregorius, the only left-handed hitters in New York's lineup.

Diamondbacks 5, White Sox 1

In Phoenix, Zack Greinke struck out a season-high 12 for Arizona and came within one out of a complete game against Chicago.

The ace right-hander allowed four hits and improved to 5-0 in his last six starts. The crowd booed loudly when manager Torey Lovullo walked to the mound to pull Greinke (6-2) after Jose Abreu's two-out double in the ninth.

Daniel Descalso hit a three-run homer and Paul Goldschmidt added a solo shot for the Diamondbacks during their sixth victory in seven games.

The White Sox managed only Leury Garcia's solo homer against Greinke, who walked one in his third double-digit strikeout game this season.

Astros 1, Tigers 0

In Houston, Brad Peacock and three relievers combined on a one-hitter while Jose Altuve provided the offense with an RBI double as Houston nipped Detroit.

Peacock was solid moving out of the bullpen to make a spot start for injured ace Dallas Keuchel. In his first start since September, Peacock allowed the lone hit and struck out eight in 4 1/3 innings. He was lifted after walking Tyler Collins in the fifth.

Chris Devenski (3-2) took over and pitched 2 2/3 innings before Will Harris worked the eighth. Ken Giles struck out two in the ninth for his 12th save, allowing the Astros to bounce back after being swept by Cleveland last weekend.

Houston struck early against Michael Fulmer (5-2) when George Springer drew a leadoff walk and scored on Altuve's one-out double in the first.

Twins 14, Orioles 7

In Baltimore, Max Kepler homered and drove in four runs while Miguel Sano and Jorge Polanco each had a career-high four hits as Minnesota roared back to beat Baltimore.

The Twins trailed 5-0 in the second inning and 6-2 entering the fifth before cranking up the offense against Ubaldo Jimenez and an ineffective Orioles bullpen. Tyler Wilson (2-2) gave up six runs in 1 1/3 innings.

A two-run double by Kepler helped the Twins tie the scores in the fifth. Minnesota sent 11 batters to the plate in a six-run sixth and Sano added a two-run homer in the ninth.

Joe Mauer had three hits, two RBIs and scored twice for the Twins, who reached season highs in runs and hits (21).

Rockies 8, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Jeff Hoffman struck out seven and tossed three-hit ball over seven innings to lead Colorado over Philadelphia.

Hoffman (2-0) also had his first big league hit and the National League-leading Rockies continued to cruise away from home. They are best in the majors with a 16-7 road record and are 5-2 on this 10-game trip, their longest of the season.

Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer in a four-run ninth after the Rockies scored four times off Phillies starter Jerad Eickhoff (0-5). Charlie Blackmon had a two-run double.

Reds 5, Indians 1

In Cincinnati, Scott Feldman struck out a season-high nine while ending Cincinnati's long stretch of ineffective starts while Scott Schebler homered for the third straight game in leading Cincinnati past Cleveland.

The Reds took the opener of the annual intrastate series. The teams play two games in Cincinnati followed by two in Cleveland. The Indians had won their last four at Great American Ball Park and six straight overall in the Ohio series.

Feldman (3-4) got the first victory by a Reds starter since May 9. He gave up four hits, including Jason Kipnis' homer, while becoming the first Cincinnati starter in the last 10 games to make it through six innings. The Reds' rotation is last in the NL in ERA and innings pitched.

Three relievers closed out a seven-hitter for Cincinnati's second victory in 10 games.

Schebler connected against Josh Tomlin (2-6) for his third homer in a span of seven at-bats. It's the first time he's homered in three consecutive games. Zack Cozart's two-run single in the seventh off Dan Otero put Cincinnati in control.

Braves 5, Pirates 2

In Atlanta, Matt Adams hit a two-run homer in his second start since being traded to Atlanta and Ender Inciarte had a career-high five hits as the Braves beat Gerrit Cole.

Brandon Phillips also homered for the Braves, who have won eight of 11.

Adams was acquired from St. Louis on Saturday as a fill-in for injured first baseman Freddie Freeman, expected to miss about 10 weeks with a broken left wrist. Adams had two hits, including his fifth-inning homer high into the right-field seats for a 5-1 lead.

David Freese and Pittsburgh manager Clint Hurdle were ejected by plate umpire Phil Cuzzi in the fourth.

Angels 3, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Jefry Marte scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the seventh inning to help Los Angeles beat Tampa Bay.

The Angels, who have won six of eight, pushed across the decisive run without a hit against relievers Jumbo Diaz (0-3) and Ryne Stanek. After walking Mike Trout intentionally to load the bases with two outs, Stanek threw a ball in the dirt while facing Albert Pujols, allowing Marte to score easily.

Corey Dickerson and Logan Morrison homered off Angels starter J.C. Ramirez (4-3).

Big league baseball's founding documents to be auctioned

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In 1876, a group of owners and team officials gathered at a New York hotel to draft and sign the constitution that created baseball's National League and would ultimately have ramifications far beyond the diamond.

The principles the document laid out, largely the work of Chicago White Stockings owner William Hulbert, would provide the basic model for every major team sports league in the world that followed.

The constitution is getting a public airing for the first time in more than a century when it's put up for sale by SCP Auctions of Laguna Niguel, California, starting Wednesday.

It offers a glimpse into a time when nearly half the teams in the league had "stockings" in their names, 50 cents for a ticket was considered a steep price, and getting paid to play sports was deemed dirty.

"The idea that grown men would pick up a bat and ball and put on costumes was suspicious," said John Thorn, the official historian of Major League Baseball. Not to mention the "residue and foul odor of drunkenness" thought to permeate the game.

Many fans were convinced the outcome of games was determined in advance. Occasionally they were correct, Thorn said.

The NL's immediate predecessor was the National Association of Professional Baseball Players, known casually as the National Association or NA. It was plagued with problems in its short life including weak central organization, teams constantly folding, and East Coast teams refusing to travel west.

Players just split up the gate receipts as though they were a small-time rock band playing a nightclub. One team, the Boston Red Stockings, was utterly dominant.

(The Red Stockings are not, as one might suspect, the modern Boston Red Sox, but the modern Atlanta Braves. Similarly, Hulbert's White Stockings are not the modern Chicago White Sox, but became the Chicago Cubs.)

The league's demise after the 1875 season gave Hulbert, a man of the West who did not like the dominance of East Coast teams, an opening to found something new and lasting.

On Feb. 2, 1876, in a meeting at the Grand Central Hotel in New York that included other early baseball luminaries like Harry Wright and Al Spalding, the new constitution of the National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs was drafted and signed.

It listed on its opening page its central principles, including:

- "To encourage, foster and elevate the game of base ball."
- "To enact and enforce proper rules for the exhibition and conduct of the game."
- "To make base ball playing respectable and honorable."

But it did something far more revolutionary in sports. It created a strict division between capital and labor. Owners and their officers ran the business end, and paid wages to the players.

"Hulbert was a genius in the model he created with the National League," Thorn said. "It is this model that gave birth to every professional sports league that followed, from football to basketball to European football. Professional sports teams owe everything to Hulbert."

The new league had eight teams: Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, the Cincinnati Reds, the Hartford Dark Blues, the New York Mutuals, and the St. Louis Brown Stockings.

The documents themselves have been held privately for decades by the family of an old National League executive that is now putting them up for sale. The auction house is not making their names public.

"Everything is in great condition. It's been preserved in a bound volume since 1925," said Dan Imler, vice president of SCP auctions.

Dove women's league recognizes players, teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2017 Dove Women's Spring League concluded last Sunday with the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Football Association honoring the top individual performers and outstanding teams in all three divisions at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School Field.

NMIFA Executive Committee member Patricia Coleman handed the perpetual trophies to Division A champion Paire Football Club and Division B top finisher Shirley's Football Club. Paire prevailed against three other teams after posting an 8-1-1 win-draw-loss record in the three-round robin competition, while Shirley's earned a 6-1-1 slate in the double-round robin contest to take the division title against four other squads.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players in the 2017 Dove Women's Spring League pose for a photo after the awards ceremony last Sunday at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School Field.

In the Masters Division, TanHoldigs FC was awarded the Fair Play trophy, while MP United and MP United 2 brought home the Best in Uniform and Team Vibrant awards, respectively. Topnotch got the Best Tactical Team plum, while Matansa and Kanoa FC secured the Team Grit and Team Spirit awards.

In the individual category, MP United-TanHoldings' Gillian Villagomez gained the Golden Boot award for scoring 11 goals in Division A, while Paire's Carla Ballesteros bagged the Golden Glove plum.

In Division A, Shirley's Katherine Magat got the Golden Boot medal for recording six goals, while her teammate Irish Viray was named Golden Boot awardee.

"Congratulations to all the winners and to all the players who participated in the league this season. We look forward to seeing you in the Fall league and we hope you will also encourage other female player to join us," Coleman said.

"We would like to acknowledge Dove for their generous sponsorship to our league and to NMIFA for making sure that female players are also given an equal opportunity to play soccer," she added.

Top dollar: Browns sign Myles Garrett, first overall pick

CLEVELAND (AP)—Myles Garrett's first sack as a pro is filled with money.

The No. 1 overall pick in last month's NFL draft, Garrett signed his four-year rookie contract with the Cleveland Browns, who gave the speedy defensive end an estimated $30.4 million package that includes a $20.3 million guaranteed signing bonus.

One week after displaying his dazzling skills at the team's rookie minicamp, Garrett got the business side of things out of the way by signing his deal Friday. The Browns posted a video on Twitter of the former Texas A&M All-American filling out the contract's paperwork while Seal's "Kiss From A Rose" played in the background.

The Browns are counting on Garrett, whose outside interests include writing poetry and paleontology, to energize their turnaround. Cleveland went 1-15 last season, has had just two winnings seasons since its 1999 expansion reboot and hasn't been to the playoffs in 15 years.

Blessed with a running back's burst, Garrett recorded 32½ sacks in three seasons for the Aggies. He was limited by a sprained ankle last season but still played at a dominant level, and the Browns didn't pass up the chance to take him in a draft loaded with defensive talent.

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6-1, 6-3. Sha also needed only two sets to eliminate another Commonwealth player in Michael Ren, 6-1, 6-2, while Chan shut down the latter's teammate Vincent Tudela, 6-0, 6-0. Tche completed the second round qualifiers at the upper half of the draw after dominating Ken Song, also of the CNMI, 6-0, 6-1.

At the lower half of the draw, only two games were played with No. 7 Ryotaro Koshiba of Japan and Hong Kong's Chun Lam outlasting their respective opponents. Koshiba eked out a 0-6, 7-6 (7), 6-0 triumph over the Philippines' Benjamin Jacob Martin, while Lam also prevailed in an extended game against South Korea's Ilbin Nam, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0.

Meanwhile, with Schorr, Song, Tudela, and Ren losing in the opening round, the CNMI has only three players left in the competition. Moris Villanueva will play his first game today against Japan's Hiroki Fujita, while Colin Ramsey and Steven Goodwin will take on Man San Chan and No. 2 Stefan Storch, respectively.

In other results, all eight seeded players in the girls singles moved into the second round, while the five CNMI bets were eliminated.

No. 1 Chao Yi-Wang earned a Round 2 berth following a 7-5, 6-1 win over Yuki Sakurai of Japan. Joining her in the next round were No. 8 Mio Kozaki, No. 3 Otoha Aoki, and No. 5 Al Yamaguchi, of Japan, No. 4 Tzu Hsun Hsu, No. 7 Yu Hua Cheng, and No. 2 Yun Chen Shieh of Chinese-Taipei, and No. 6 Alicia Yue of Hong Kong.

Cheng beat the CNMI's Grace Choi, 6-0, 6-0; Aoki topped Isabel Heras, 6-0, 6-1; and Kozaki swept Malika Miyawaki, 6-1, 6-1. Tania Tan and Maria Gregoire suffered the same fates after bowing to Japanese Mua Shigeta, 1-6, 3-6, and Kaho Nieda, 1-6, 1-6, respectively.

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awardees in the U11, U13, U15, and U18 age groups received trophies from McDonald's Middle Road general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr. and owner Marcia Ayuyu. Also present at the awards ceremony were NMA president Ramon Tebuteb and secretary Robin Sapong. Awardees were selected based on their performance in the May 11 to 13 competition and their attitude on and off the field.

"Congratulations to the winners and to their parents and coaches for their support to the students. A lot of good athletes have been discovered through this competition so I hope more and more athletes will compete every year and represent the CNMI in future tournaments," Ayuyu Jr. said.

The other awardees were girls U7's Lyanah Omelau of William S. Reyes Elementary School; boys U9's Christopher Cruz of Tinian Elementary School; U11's Dylan Mister of Whispering Palms and Tinalyn Litulumar of Oleai Elementary School; U13's Rintaro Miyawaki of Saipan International School and Leannia Acosta of Dandan Middle School; U15's Dawei Cai of Agape Christian School and Jamie Pangelinan of Marianas High School; and U18's Traven Guitugua of Saipan Southern High School, and Isabel Dickenson of Saipan International School.

Besides the top awardees in each age group, NMA and McDonald's also recognized WSR's Mika Rose Naanep for showing great sportsmanship. Naanep stopped in the middle of the 400m run to help a runner who tripped and fell down during the race last May 12 at the Hopwood Middle School Field. Naanep lost some precious time and dropped to third place in the standings, but won the hearts of NMA officials for her gesture. Naanep earlier ruled the 200m race in the girls U9 age group, beating four other runners.

FALCONS

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Brel, who hit a single, stole second base, and eventually made it home off a sacrifice fly from fourth batter Tyrone Omar. Omar let go a shot to far left field with the ball appearing to be going over the fence, allowing Brel to run home and third batter Anthony Tenorio to advance to second and third. However, Omar's fly was caught by Peter Lieto, as the latter ran fast and chased the ball.

Now one out away from taking the series opener, Riungel continued his strong performance on the mound, getting the second strikeout against two balls on GSM batter Peter Tomokane. However, Tomokane connected on his fifth swing with the ball going over the head of Falcons second baseman Giovanni Mira, who leapt to catch the ball, but failed. The error gave Tenorio time to run home and moved GSM one run away from forcing the deadlock with Tomokane on second base.

The tough task of delivering the game-tying hit then fell on the shoulder of Byron Kaipat, who got off to a bad start, as he came up with an empty swing. Riungel threw two pitches to Kaipat and they were ruled as balls before the former got the second strike on another empty swing from the latter. For his fifth pitch, Riungel was on target as Kaipat came up with another empty swing, allowing the Falcons to escape with the Game 1 win.

The Falcons, who made it last to the semifinals after beating Titanium in a playoff game, set up the upset after scoring in the first three innings while limiting GSM to one run from the first to eighth.

A.J. Evangelista handed the Falcons their first run at the top of the opening inning when he reached off GSM's error at third base, while Mira got the second run off a fielder's choice. Mira recorded another run in the third inning off a sacrifice out from Darren Pua, while Henry Iguel lit up the board for the Falcons in the second inning off another GSM defensive miscue.

GSM, on the other hand, scored its first run at the bottom of the third with Brel's sacrifice fly bringing Camacho home. Camacho's run came after GSM were called for 1-2-3 innings in the first two. The pennant champion then had a chance to earn more runs in the fourth when they loaded the bases with two outs, but starting pitcher Franklin Lieto fanned out Camacho to frustrate GSM.

After another 1-2-3 inning in the fifth, GSM again loaded the bases in the sixth, but Lieto was also there to strike out Camacho. The Falcons pitcher went on to get another strike in the seventh inning and left Omar stranded at second base before Riungel took over the mound.

Riungel and the rest of the Falcons defense then held their ground in the last two innings to foil GSM's late rally and move closer to a stint in the best-of-five title series.

Meanwhile, the BSI Aces and defending champions Chalan Kanoa Bears started their own semis showdown last night and results of Game 1 were unavailable at press time.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	26	16	.619	—
Baltimore	25	18	.581	1½
Boston	22	21	.512	4½
Tampa Bay	23	24	.489	5½
Toronto	19	26	.422	8½

Central Division

Minnesota	23	18	.561	—
Cleveland	23	20	.535	1
Detroit	21	22	.488	3
Chicago	20	23	.465	4
Kansas City	18	26	.409	6½

West Division

Houston	30	15	.667	—
Texas	24	21	.533	6
Los Angeles	24	23	.511	7
Oakland	20	24	.455	9½
Seattle	20	25	.444	10

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	26	17	.605	—
Atlanta	19	23	.452	6½
New York	18	24	.429	7½
Philadelphia	15	27	.357	10½
Miami	15	28	.349	11

Central Division

Milwaukee	25	19	.568	—
St. Louis	22	19	.537	1½
Chicago	22	21	.512	2½
Cincinnati	21	23	.477	4
Pittsburgh	20	25	.444	5½

West Division

Colorado	29	17	.630	—
Arizona	27	19	.587	2
Los Angeles	26	19	.578	2½
San Francisco	20	26	.435	9
San Diego	16	30	.348	13

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships Awardees

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Brilliant Star School's Moshe Sikkel, left, shows his trophy after being named the outstanding athlete in the boys U7 division. The top awardees in each age group were determined based on their performance and attitude during the meet held from May 11 to 13.

Boys U9 top awardee Christopher Cruz, left, of Tinian Elementary School is joined in the photo by McDonald's Middle Road general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr.

William S. Reyes Elementary School's Mika Rose Naanep, center, poses with, from left, Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon Tebuteb, McDonald's Middle Road general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., WSR coach/teacher Kathy Mersai, and NMA secretary Robin Sapong after receiving the Best Sportsmanship medal during the individual awards ceremony for the Northern Mariana Athletics kicks off the 2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road.

Mc Donald's Middle Road general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., left, delivers a brief message to the individual awardees and others present at the ceremony.

William S. Reyes Elementary School's Lyanah Omelau smiles after getting her trophy in the girls U7 age group.

Mc Donald's Middle Road general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., right, congratulates girls U9 division top athlete Savita Sikkel of Brilliant Star School.

Oleai Elementary School's Tinalyn Litulumar is all smiles after receiving the top athlete award in the girls U11 division.

Whispering Palms School's Dylan Mister poses with his boys U11 top athlete award.

Curry's 36 points leads Warriors to sweep Spurs, 129-115

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Panik homers as Giants beat Cubs, 6-4

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Sikkels lead All Schools top awardees

Falcons stun GSM in semis series opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

From undefeated to the brink of elimination.

The Falcons are a win away from advancing to the finals and booting out highly-favored Go See Mark following a 4-3 upset in Game 1 of their semis series in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Falcons' victory ended GSM's 14-game winning streak and put the latter in a must-win situation in tonight's Game 2 as their Final Four showdown is only a best-of-three affair.

The pennant champion GSM was stunned in the series opener as it was held to one run in the first eight innings and fell short in its late rally at the bottom of the ninth.

The last inning started with the Falcons ahead by 3, 4-1. Diego Camacho led off for GSM at the bottom of the ninth and was struck out by closer Ricky Joe Riungel, who relieved Franklin Lieto midway at the top of the eighth.

Next up for the GSM was Jesse

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ricky Joe Riungel reacts after getting the third and last strikeout and lifting the Falcons to a 4-3 victory over Go See Mark in Game 1 of their best-of-three series in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The top athletes in the 2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships pose with their trophies during the brief awards ceremony yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road. Joining them in the photo are officials of the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics and long-time meet supporter McDonald's.

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Siblings Moshe and Savita Sikkel of Brilliant Star School and 10 other students were recognized for their outstanding performance in the 2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships during a brief awards ceremony yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road.

Northern Marianas Athletics

Moshe was named the top athlete in the boys U7 age group for ruling three races—60m run (10.60 seconds), 100m (17.97 seconds), and 400m (1:23.47)—and qualifying in two other events in his division. Not to be outdone was his sister, Savita, who won similar events and added the 800m victory to her credit to lord it over in the girls U9 age group. The BSS student timed in at 10.07 seconds in the 60m, 16.35 seconds in the 100m, 1:23.04 in the 400m, and 3:57.89 seconds in the 800m. Savita was also a qualifier in the 200m and softball throw.

"It felt really great to win again this year," said Moshe, who took the same award in 2016 when he debuted in the annual tournament.

"We're looking forward to defending our title in the next competition," Savita added.

The siblings' mother, Thu Tran, was proud of her children's accomplishments, as she knows how they work hard and enjoy every sport they join.

"When they can enjoy the sport—any sport—and do well, that makes me more than proud of them," Tran said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The Sikkels along with the top

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Seeded players deliver in Juniors ITF tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ITF International Tennis Federation

Favored players lived up to expectations in the opening singles games in the main draw of the 2017 Northern Marianas Juniors Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

The top-ranked Yi Jui Lo of Chinese-Taipei led the seeded players who marched into the second round of the boys singles competition after downing Japan's Hisanori Suzuki in their upper draw pairing, 6-4, 6-3.

Also advancing to Round 2 after prevailing in the top half of the draw were No. 3 Michael Francis Eala of Hong Kong, No. 8 Mann Shah of India, Macau's Kun Teng Tche, and Hong Kong's Pak Hong Chan and Chun Ho Chow.

Chow won over the CNMI's Robbie Schorr, 6-2, 6-1, while Eala defeated South Korea's Dong Heyon Kim,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
India's Kaushik Hariharan returns to Japan's Kanate Abe during their singles game in the 2017 Northern Marianas Juniors Championships last Monday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.